

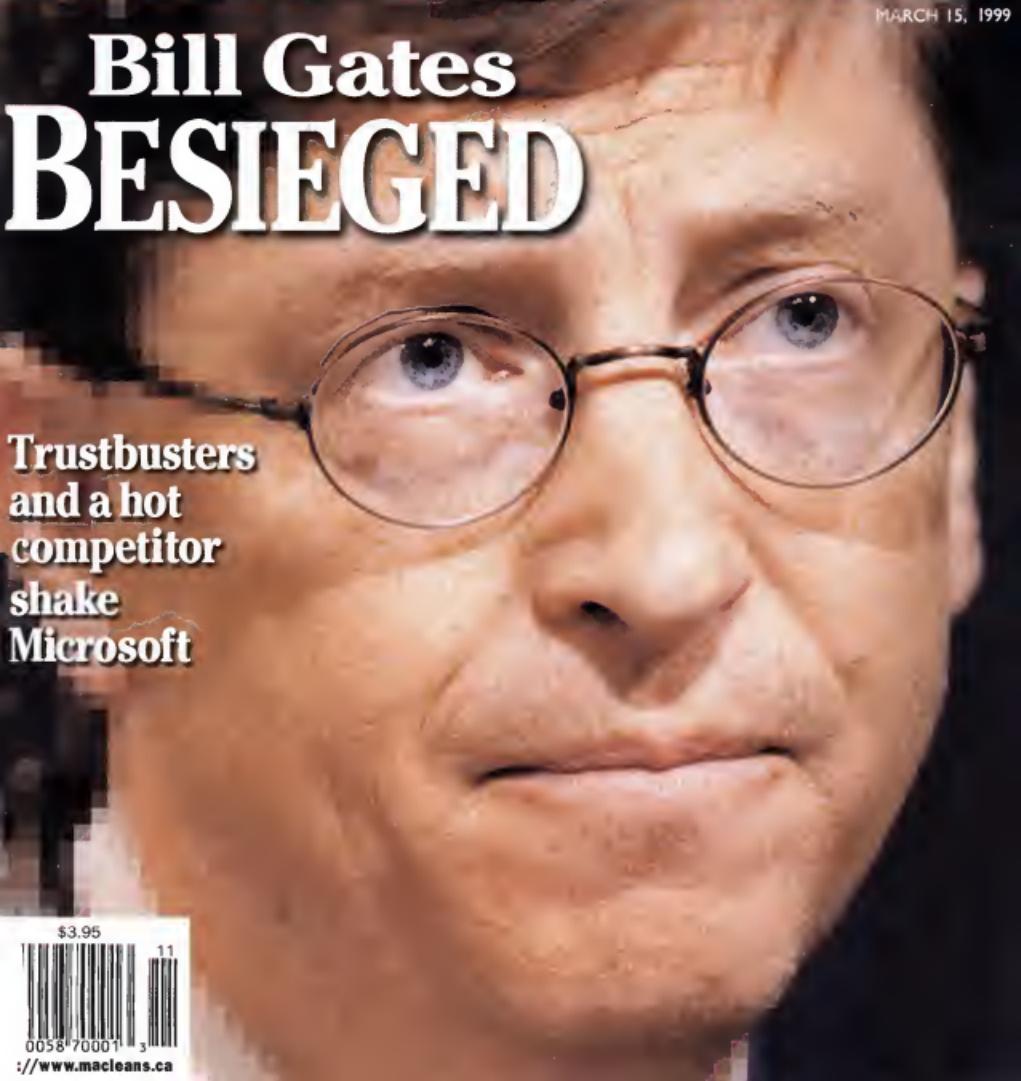
NEWFOUNDLAND'S 50TH • CBC SHOWDOWN • GLEN CLARK'S CRISIS

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

MARCH 15, 1999

Bill Gates BESIEGED



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CANADA'S
WEEKLY
INFORMATION MAGAZINE

This Week

1000 VOL. 100 NO. 1

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Bill Gates besieged

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Long the subject of political spin, Monica Lewinsky finally got to do some spinning of her own. What she said could mean trouble for prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

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at the CBC

The Crown corporation's future hangs in the balance as radio and television reporters, hosts and producers prepare to join striking technicians.



18 SPECIAL REPORT Newfoundland's 50th

Half a century after the *Centav* battle that brought it into Confederation, Canada's youngest province stands on the brink of wrenching change.

From The Editor

The politics of bare knuckles

Jack Webster would have been envious. Before the Journalist legend died last week, he joked that he had a deal with *The Province*, Vancouver's tabloid daily, that it would break his passing by running his photo in colour over the entire front page. It was not to be. Fronted reports of an RCMP raid on Premier Gil Clark's home the day Webster died reduced the once-irreverable reporter to a smaller front-page picture. Later that week, the bane outside Webster's funeral, which had the air of a state occasion, was the brewing scandal. The man at the centre knew exactly how Webster would have reacted. Said Clark, "I think he'd say, 'Wow, what another wild week in B.C. politics!'"

There really are only two other provinces where politics are prosecuted with the same brewing, take-no-prisoners levity as British Columbia—Newfoundland and Quebec. And with the journalistic tone set by the fifth radio descendant of Webster, British Columbia has always seemed to have a more aggressive press corps than all the rest. On the coast, they go through politicians the old fashioned way—they spit them out over breakfast.

What truly stands out, though, are the eccentricities of the lead-enterprises with the first priority. After De Cosse—well a history of bizarre scandals favour to do with life's basics: highways, laws and beer. In the 1960s, there was "Wing." Phil Gauvin, the minister of highways, who was perpetually in trouble with the Mountain for spending using broken roads—was once convicted for contempt of court. (Gauvin still managed to defeat Gary gear. Dave Ross in Kamloops during the 1993 provincial election.) The unlikely Bill Vander Zalm stepped down as premier in 1984 amid allegations

of conflict of interest in the \$16-million sale of his theme park, Fantasy Gardens. (Now, he's back in Reform party guise, threatening to split the rightwing vote and keep the New Democrats in power, if they don't kill themselves first.) After Vander Zalm, premier Mike Harcourt had to quit when party officials were found diverting charity casino revenue to NDP coffers—the so-called Bagnateau scandal. (Star) Glen Clark as Harcourt's successor

Now, Clark's government is mired in mud and in the polls, down close to the percentage who believe that Clark is still alive. And last week's developments could prove to be the nail in his political coffin. At issue in the government's internal approval of a gambling centre operated by a friend of the premier—is a man who has beenwarzinated in an apparently unconnected matter involving gambling at a Bally's strip joint. The same case, back at the same time, as the mysterious RCMP raid on Clark's residence—all of which was dutifully recorded by a local TV station (page 34).

White Clark deserves the presumption of innocence and an explanation about how the

Monashee ended up at his home with cameras in tow, the people of his province need an answer in a compelling question: How did a government pledged to obtain "dual approval" from the local Bally's owner grant the gambling license over allegations from the company? And without the requisite background checks on the owner? One could ask: Was it because of connections with Premier Clark? It's a tough question. But certainly one. (See Webster would have asked.)

Robert Lewis



Canadians and took place in this century. Last year, we asked readers to nominate candidates for a July 1 ranking of the 100 Most Influential Canadians in History prepared by Prof. Donald Smith. Thousands of suggestions poured in and many of them made the list. This year, we are looking for the key happenings of the century readers are asked to restrict themselves to. Please suggest. They may be sent by mail to: The Maclean's Office, Maclean's, 777 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5W 1A7, by fax to (416) 596-5184, by e-mail to jul1@maclean.ca or at <http://www.macleans.ca> on the Web.

Granville (left), Ahonen, great friends

Newsroom Notes:

Calling all readers

The editors of Maclean's invite readers to join in a 1999 Canada Day project. Historians Jack Granville and Norman Holmes are preparing a special cover package for the July 1 issue on the events that have had the greatest impact on Canada and Canadians in the 20th century. These will be events—in war and in peace—that

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Modern parenting

In your cover story "The mother load" (March 31, Danielle Crittenton, author of *What Our Mothers Didn't Tell Us: Why High-jinx, Laughter, and Modern Women Seem to Forget about Half the Parenting Population*) what about the other load and the burden of guiltlessness past and present regarding the daddies who are always working and neglecting their families? The effect of barefoot daddies is just as much an issue as the effect of barefoot mothers. I am an American parent, and I am a stay-at-home dad. My wife is also an American parent who works full-time. I think it is useful and important to ask questions about the effective nature of our children, but it is more important to acknowledge that families are made richer by having opportunities to choose how their children will be raised and who will be the primary care-giver and for how long. Then, the question becomes, how can government and business best support the parenting choices of each family so that it can reach its greatest potential for creating a society of respect, peace and love? I wouldn't like to see us assign the responsibility of healthy families to only one on the shoulders of the mother. We have chosen to live a lifestyle that allows for one of us to stay at home. At present, it is my turn.

For Lynne Hartshorne Russell
Coquitlam, B.C.

From the outset of the coverage of Danielle Crittenton's book, I imagined that her perspective would be somewhat naive and narrow. Not only is she a child of privilege, but having "skipped university," she has not studied or acquired the skills for studying sociological and social issues. My fears were confirmed when in "The privilege of home," you quoted Crittenton as saying, "How, in



Philip Prod.
Freestyle Art

Were you revealing a bias or merely being wryly humorous when you described Danielle Crittenton as working another mom, "elegantly dressed and coiffed"? In keeping with the article's theme, that there is a dichotomy between full-time working mothers and stay-at-home types, are we to assume that the latter would most likely be slumped at their desks and barely dressed? Your article simplifies the working-mother issue into a polar debate between working and staying at home. Rather than two extremes, the reality is a continuum with low-income women being one end and the other. Many fall somewhere in between, with arrangements that include leaves of absence, part-time work, job sharing, work-at-home arrangements and home-based businesses. All women are trying to find the right balance to meet their own and their families' economic, emotional, physical and social needs. We need to respect how difficult this is rather than allowing it to become divisive.

Bonnie Searson
North Vancouver

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Should be addressed to:

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the space of a grandmother, basic we made it a park of only the rich to be able to care for their children? What is it today that causes so many women to feel that they have an excuse but to work? Women and mothers in my family have worked for generations, and continue to do so. Historically, our society is rural, agrarian, and let me tell you that those women did not work. It has only been the women of society and financial privilege who have not worked. Crittenton's experience is limited to life in upper-class Toronto and similar locales that bear no resemblance to the experience of the vast majority of Canadians.

Ann Weston
Gatineau, Que.

Were you revealing a bias or merely being wryly humorous when you described Danielle Crittenton as working another mom, "elegantly dressed and coiffed"? In keeping with the article's theme, that there is a dichotomy between full-time working mothers and stay-at-home types, are we to assume that the latter would most likely be slumped at their desks and barely dressed? Your article simplifies the working-mother issue into a polar debate between working and staying at home. Rather than two extremes, the reality is a continuum with low-income women being one end and the other. Many fall somewhere in between, with arrangements that include leaves of absence, part-time work, job sharing, work-at-home arrangements and home-based businesses. All women are trying to find the right balance to meet their own and their families' economic, emotional, physical and social needs. We need to respect how difficult this is rather than allowing it to become divisive.

Bonnie Searson
North Vancouver

The only new element in this feature story is Danielle Crittenton's book. The pressures on women today are the same ones we've been successfully working through for years. The "mother load" is the load of guilt that continues to be dumped on working mothers of today. My great-grandmother had 13 children and raised them on a Saskatchewan farm with no running water or electricity, as a single parent when her husband died. To suggest that I, today, can not handle an office job, three children and a home while I have the help of a husband and every modern convenience, is ridiculous.

Stay-at-home values

As an educated woman myself who "earned her own money," I must congratulate you past. Mary Nierenberg's choice to be proud of staying at home with her son's "A Jewish stay-at-home," Cover, March 31, I also have chosen to stay home with my two small children, and consider those parenting, living years in their development, not a sacrifice to my career, but the most important job I will ever do. Job, career and the almighty compensation will always assist our children, however, will only be small for a very short period of time. I think as a society we must place less emphasis on our "purchasing power," and more emphasis on the quality and quantity of our parenting.

Ann Weston
Gatineau, Que.

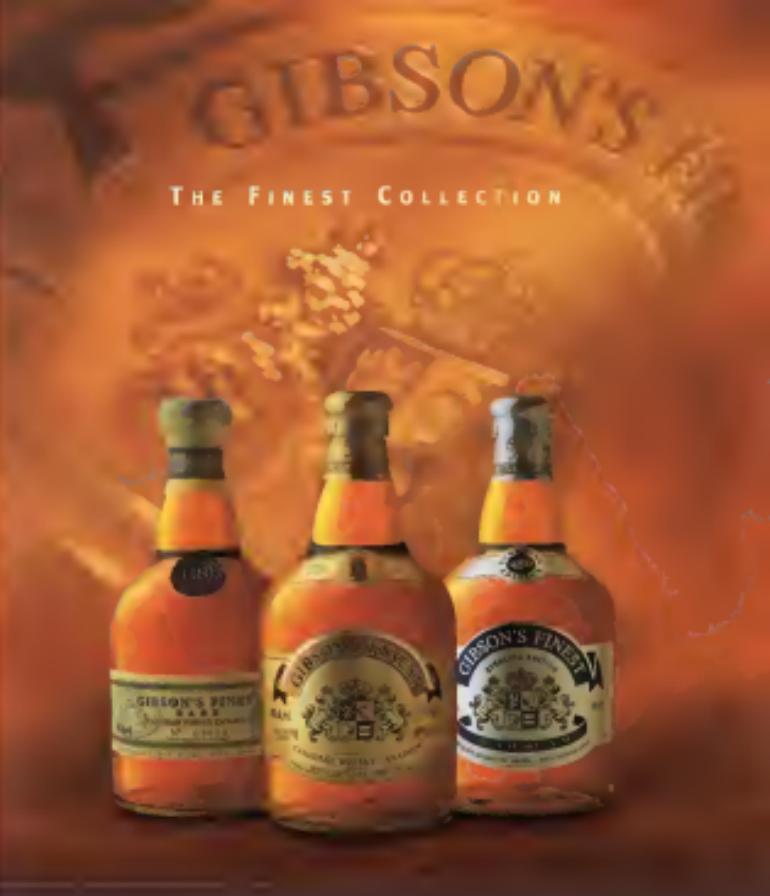
I am, Contryn in the tone of this article, I feel I have the "motherload" of chores a supportive spouse, three wonderful children, a fulfilling job and the chance to use my skills without being restricted by stereotypes. Let Danielle Crittenton find her life balance, let the rest of us find our own, and please, let Marlene's find something more noteworthy than recycled guilt about working mothers.

Karen Gustafson
Ponoka, Alta.

While your story discusses the tremendous stress on working mothers, I was disappointed to note that it did not once mention the even greater stress of single mothers who work. "Everyone" agrees that "the two-income family is a recipe for stress"; how much more stress is there on the one parent, one-income family? Surely, those women (or men) who shoulder the whole of the burden, as opposed to the "bulk" of the burden, deserved some mention.

Randy Jarrett
Vancouver, B.C.

I don't have a problem with parents working less to spend more time with their kids, especially in those precious and all-too-fleeting early years. What perhaps is the automatic assumption shared by both sexes that the onus of doing this lies with the mother, as well as the fact that women who are unwilling or unable to do this are saddled with the bulk of the housework and guilt. Provided that parents can sort it financially, fathers must be as willing as mothers to put their careers on hold or scale back their work hours to raise their kids and, if this is not financially feasible, to share the burden of housework (and guilt) equally with their wives. Only those who feel women are inherently better care-givers and house-



GIBSON'S FINEST CANADIAN WHISKY

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chooses work over home. Unless our society starts getting its priorities straightened out and dispenses self on its highest priority, our entire young generation will grow up to be criminals.

Dr. Howard Frey,
Edmonton

The first female chief

In the recent "Letter from Ian Calgary" (Canada Notes, March 11), your magazine has identified Christine Silverberg as the first female police chief in Canada. That is indeed an error as I was presently working under the first female police chief, Lenni Bruehl before Silverberg's appointment was after Bruehl's.

Deputy Chief Lenni Bruehl,
Guelph, Ont.

Standard time

In "Now is the time to set the date" (The Road Ahead, March 1), Lloyd Kuehig makes a valid complaint about inconsistencies in expressing the date in the forest ("03/04/05"). There is indeed a lack of uniformity in the order in which year, month and

day are presented in this format. However, the problem lies not in the failure to adopt a standard, but in the failure to implement the standard Canada has already adopted. According to these international standards, the most straightforward interpretation (the year) is stated first, followed by the next most significant (the month) and then the day. That would explain why a GST form would correctly interpret 03/04/05 as April 6, 2003. An added advantage of the SI convention is that it permits adding further time information (hour, minute, second) in order of decreasing significance. The challenge to the Canadian government, then, is to advertise and popularize the convention.

Werner Reutter,
Brampton, Ont.

Gambling limits

The recent file on provincial sports lottery is interesting, but did not fully explain why, like other wagering enterprises, most have reasonable limits on the financial risk created by professional gambling ("The pros of Pro-Lite," Sports, March 1). Ontario Lottery Corp.'s sports games are designed for small-stakes wagering, not for professional gambling involving bets of

hundreds of thousands of dollars a day or more. More than 90 per cent of all wagers made are for less than \$50 and a bet can be as small as \$1. In addition, OLC never had a payout winning total of \$50,000, as the story said. The \$5,000 figure is the maximum for Pro-Lite sales at any one location for a day. That daily maximum was wrongly reported as being \$32,500.

Don Peter,
Ontario Lottery Corp.,
Scarborough, Ont.

Canada's finances

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin's budget last month ("In good health," Canada, March 1) showed more of his opaque pursuit of popularity than a leader making decisions for the future. Canada's surplus at the federal level is more a product of favourable interest rates than Liberal policies. This economic surplus will disappear like spring snow if interest rates rise, and we will be forced to make difficult decisions to ensure our financial soundness. In the face of fiscal irresponsibility, Canada needs a government that will reduce our debt to live up billions in late-test payments made every year in pay for increased Canada Pension Plan and health-care costs on our population ages. Accomplishing this will require stiff

popular decisions that look beyond the end of a government mandate. Only this kind of vision will ensure our long-term prosperity.

Steve Goy,
Anchorage

Peter C. Newman's insightful analysis of the federal budget is crystal clear. Paul Martin is not doing enough to restore fiscal responsibility to this great nation of ours ("A pedestrian budget from a revolution," The Nation's Business). Newman writes about Martin's odds as an entrepreneur and businessman, yet Canadians see little of this vision in his latest budget. With a national debt of nearly \$800 billion, this is an issue that will affect our great-grandchildren. Dear for my children's children. I hope we can save Canada—it is still a great place to live.

Derek D. Wiers,
Brampton, Ont.

Ice-storm claims

Along with other volunteer members of the Eastern Ontario Disaster Relief Committee, I was distressed to read on the anniversary of the ice storm, "The plague of ice" (Opening Notes, Jan. 18), that "in Eastern Ontario, most victims are still waiting for compensation." The fact is that to date

EDRC has processed more than 25,000 of the claims we received as a result of last January's storm. Your article did a great disservice to the volunteer committee members who have worked hard without pay for 31 months in compensation, their fellow victims of the storm. The EDRC continues to process thousands of claims and is committed to processing the less than 4,000 claims remaining as soon as possible.

Andy Brown,
Chairman, Eastern Ontario
Disaster Relief Committee,
Kingston, Ont.

Clinton's lineage

As a general rule, reading Alton Fotheringham's columns causes me to laugh and shake my head. In this case, however, I was left with a certain sadness that we have lost so much of our human compassion for our fellow beings ("Why Bill and Monica made such a lovely couple," March 1). I found it offensive to read his characterization of U.S. President Bill Clinton's family and background, and was particularly disappointed that the underlying premise for his very judgmental dialogue was, "What else could we expect from him?" None of us should be condemned or judged on the basis of family and upbringing. I found Fother-

ingham's column to be cruel and insensitive in dealing with what I see as being very difficult and even tragic life circumstances.

John Gagnon,
Gatineau

'Thinking computers'

Facinating well-up by Ray Kurzweil on the advanced thinking/feeding computers that may well be available in 20 years ("When machines think," Essays on the Millennium, March 1). At the risk of sounding a bit like a Luddite, I have to ask why? Possibly, we will have finally created the übernessch, or übermensch, sought after by a previous generation in Europe with disastrous results. And what is it because of the place old-fashioned beings like myself, most of whom can't even begin to comprehend the concept of a "self-taught" increase in thinking agents of these new beings?

Eric Dryden,
Tivoli, Ont.

The whole essay reminded me of my grandchildren explaining the virtues of their new Christmas toys. I was so glad that I can still remember the colour of a blacksmith's shop rather than a burned-out Penny clip.

Barrie P. Andrew,
Windsor, Ont.



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Column



Barbara Amiel

Sorry, folks, gender differences are real

In 1991, a B.C. logger firefighter died in a forest fire. Seven others managed to scurry up a 70-m cliff to escape. One couldn't make it in time and was overcome by smoke and heat. Death by fire is hell. That's probably why half had to be depicted as thermal fire, to be burned at the stake was the favorite punishment nobles meted out to those they believed deserved it. An inquest was held in British Columbia after the tragedy and provincial fitness standards for firefighters were raised.

Townie McIvor was hired as a firefighter by the B.C. government in 1992, just before the new standards were implemented. She took no physical test until 1994 when she failed the running test of 2.5 km in 11 minutes. She lost her job. She went to court, claiming her firing was discriminatory—because men have a higher aerobic capacity than women. Not of men can run 2.5 km in 11 minutes and not all those applying to be firefighters, but more of them than women. Her case is now before the Supreme Court of Canada.

I haven't a clue whether the standards are set by the B.C. government or by another B.C. firefighter, Janet Ryynstad-Stahl, who says that running was not her own strong point, but after training hard she maintained a fitness level that met the requirements and allowed "use to be a sole, effective and equal member of a three-person firefighting crew."

According to Ryynstad-Stahl, "there are many males who also continue to fail the new fitness test. Perhaps that means the test is 'biased' against people who have a lower level of cardiovascular fitness and strength."

It's hard to know whether the dispute between the two female firefighters is simply competitive jealousy, but Ryynstad-Stahl's comments cut to the quick. She asked for a standard that all firefighters, irrespective of gender, should meet to maintain safety and effectiveness. In her view the notion of special treatment on the basis of gender constitutes "giving special hand-wards" for women who had worked hard to gain strength.

Well yes. Equality means equal treatment and not special privileges. But is it possible that firefighter McIvor may be caught in a catch 22 situation. Let us assume that the standard of 2.5 km in 11 minutes is unnecessary. It is a rule made by bureaucrats, and it was fired for not meeting a sensible rule there is no way to challenge it except by recourse to sensational grounds. If bureaucrats today decided that all computer operators must have a hand speed of more than 1000 inches in order to prevent repetitive strain injury, the only hope for women would be to say that such a large hand span discommodes against the more delicate bone structure of females.

The only way around such rule may be a sensible argument, but that means the Supreme Court of Canada may, once more, make a non-sense judgment. Instead of reforming the rules, we will have yet another precedent confirming the view that when someone fails at something, it is because of discrimination, and that the solution is to make all our institutions blind to gender differences. But gender differences are real. Feminists started out by maintaining there were no differences between men and women, except perhaps for pre-concept upper body strength. This was orthodoxy in the early years and anyone who departed from it was a reactionary, harkled after the darkness. If you were a waggon and pre-empted it, the feminists declared you a non-person, as with Margaret Thatcher, or a moving kinetic, as with me.

Gradually as women moved into so-called non-traditional jobs, they discovered we had to put up with a lot of things they didn't like, such as long working hours, tough standards and working conditions. Women were required to make choices and sacrifices. The little cry then became to change the workplace and its institution because—wait for it—women were "different" (read "boring"). We were wired differently, thought differently and had different moral approaches to life.

Recently, a study of physicians found that in 1997 women made up the majority of medical school graduates in Canada for the first time. This claimed the Angus Reid study, will create problems for standards of health care as women work about eight fewer hours a week than their male counterparts and have 80 per cent of their productivity rate. They don't like surgery or emergency medicine. My own view is that under normal circumstances female physicians would change work patterns to fit society's needs. But it goes on demanding that our institutions change to fit the assessments of protected groups, who can blame lawmakers—or whatever the chosen group may be—for taking advantage of the situation? The key mistake is that we substituted the liberal and nasty notion of parity for the liberal notion of equality. Parity demands that all groups should be equally represented at the finishing line, hence the B.C. government feels there is something wrong with its standards—not because such standards are irrelevant to firefighting efficiency, but because fewer women pass them than men and there are statistically fewer female firefighters than in the population.

On curries to see how we will deal with the apparent numerical overrepresentation of Asians in jobs that require mathematical skills or East Indians and Koreans as small business. Will we lower the mathematical requirements for accountants or suspend the writing of business lectures in people of Far Eastern ancestry? Meanwhile, if Canada's military goes on spending all its first and money on making the army a segregated place for females—where they can be treated with the courtesies appropriate to Southern belles—because numerically women are underrepresented in the armed forces, we had better make sure our foreign policy doesn't irritate the Americans too much. We can pursue these mad ideas but we'll need someone sane to protect us from their consequences.

The mistake in the
B.C. firefighter
case was to
confuse the nasty
notion of parity
with the liberal
ideal of equality

Opening NOTES

Edited by TRAVIS JAMES

The Milgaard saga goes on

The budget is substantial for a made-in-Canada television movie—\$3.2 million. As is the subject—David Milgaard's wrongful conviction in the 1959 murder of Saskatoon nursing student Gail Miller and the 23 years he spent in prison for that crime. And so is the legal dispute between CTV and the principal characters in the Milgaard saga and the real design: CTV is building on a big audience when the film will premiere on April 12. And that is the problem for Saskatoon lawyer Bruce Besser, who is defending 65-year-old Larry Fisher on charges of rape and first-degree murder in Miller's death. Fisher's trial is scheduled to begin in early May. Besser has asked Court of



Fisher: Milgaard (left) a controversial TV movie

Queen's Bench Justice Gerry Allbright to prohibit CTV from broadcasting the movie anywhere in Canada until the trial ends, arguing that the plot could prejudice his client. Allbright's decision is expected this week.

Milgaard is the first of a special network series created as part of a commitment to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to broadcast works about "significant social issues of national importance." CTV president Ivan Fenton denies there is a connection between the scheduled air date and the Fisher trial, saying, "The two happened independently." Milagr says but even a temporary ban could be a boon for ratings when Milgaard does run.

CAPITAL CONFIDENTIAL

When Ontario's New Democratic Leader Howard Hampton released his platform on Feb. 27, some of his ideas for health care looked familiar to Toronto politicians Joe Gallagher and Paul Robinson. As well they should. Hampton admitted to Marianne's last week that most of his concepts came from his recent subordinate roles with various Ontario para政 (para-political) groups—including Gallagher and Robinson. Gallagher had already given up trying to share his ideas with political figures, saying, "We have ideas to take account of the pressure off of the system but not to one we can believe." That "no one" includes Liberal Leader Edna McGaugh and Premier Mike Harris, whose own health care plans were for waitlists without benefit of a ride with politicians.



Robinson (left), Hampton along for an educational ride

ago. Hampton denied a plan that includes assessing emergency-room patients within 15 minutes of arrival. During his two-hour ride with Gallagher and Robinson, Hampton saw how they negotiated with hospitals just to drag off a patient. "I didn't realize how chaotic the system is," says Hampton, until I took these trips." He was astounded when the politicians encouraged him to drive his sick wife to a nearby hospital, rather than let her being taken away by ambulance.

The same day Hampton tagged along, Gallagher told the presser's office to show his ideas with Marianne. He was transferred to the ministry of health, and there is an assistant. "The government is continually an 'ethical-care bypass,'" says Gallagher. "To subordinate terms, this means: Don't stop there."

EMPHORIUM

At 1990, nine of the world's 10 largest cities were in Europe or North America. In the year 2000, only three will be. The top 10 cities in 2000, with population in millions:

1. Tokyo	28	6. Shanghai	54.2
2. Mexico City	18.1	7. Lagos, Nigeria	33.8
3. Bombay	16	8. Los Angeles	33.1
4. São Paulo, Brazil	17.7	9. Seoul	32.9
5. New York City	16.6	10. Beijing	32.2

The top 10 cities in 1990: London, New York, Paris, Berlin, Chicago, Vienna, Tokyo, St. Petersburg, Manchester, England, Philadelphia.

SOURCE: SOURCE OF THE WORLD'S 10

GOLD-FARB POLL

Research Canada can reveal what 1,400 Canadians were asked whether it was acceptable to cheat on taxes. The overwhelming majority said that it was wrong. Percentage by age group:

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Agree	19	33	31	11	8
Disagree	81	67	69	89	92

SOURCE: RESEARCH CANADA



Chato now, and with *Roseanne*, *Greene* and *Wilkman* in the cast ensemble

DOUBLE TAKE

Paul Chato

From 1979 to 1981, The Freshman comedy troupe was one of the wackiest acts in Canada. Paul Chato, Rick Greene, Dan Redican and Peter Wilkman beatified ads into off-the-cuff character sketches off the bat. Chato, then 24, was the lead, and he and Greene were the funniest. The others also moved on: Greene appears in *The New Red Green Show*; Wilkman does voice-over work and Redican moved to Los Angeles where he is writing and performing stand-up comedy. Although that leaves Chato the only Freshman to log in to the entertainment industry, he feels that the merging of television and the Internet has drawn him "inextricably back into show business."

Moving for 15 years, Chato and his wife, Roseanne, a graphic artist, have a six-year-old daughter and six-month-old son, and live in Burlington, Ont., across Wilkman to form The Freshies. They all agreed that Canadian comedy at the time was too tame. Says Chato: "We thought that that was an opening for our type of humor."

When The Freshies broke up in 1988, Chato went to

KEN MURRAY

BEST-SELLERS

FICtION

1. *The Tarnished*, John Gutfreund (D)
2. *Bluebeard*, Jim Harrison (D)
3. *The Game of Gold*, Michael Lewis (D)
4. *The Freshman*, Rick Greene (D)
5. *A Man in Hell*, Steve Holden (D)
6. *Southern Grace*, Patricia Cornwell (D)
7. *One*, Helen Gavran (D)
8. *A Sudden Change of Heart*, Barbara Taylor Bradford (D)
9. *Wife Swap*, Mark McCarry (D)
10. *Silly Mischief*, Jennifer Egan (D)

NONFICTION

1. *One Man's War*, Eric C. Abell (D)
2. *The Envelope*, Cecilia Alexandria (D)
3. *Anytime*, Philip McGraw (D)
4. *The Freshman*, writers Holmes, Soren, MacKenzie (D)
5. *Brave New World*, Daniel P. Moynihan (D)
6. *The Last Stand*, Mark Atiyeh (D)
7. *One True*, Steven Cozma (D)
8. *Never a Dull Moment*, Bill Bryson (D)
9. *Going to Hell*, John Cleese (D)
10. *Darkness Inside*, Peter Daubenspeck (D)

1. *Positive-List* and *Compiled by Brian Cuthbert*

Learning the psychic ropes

For those looking to enhance their telepathic skills, Australian psychic Hazel Whitelock offers *Develop Your Psychic Abilities: Unlock Your Intuition and Psychic Potential* (Rocky Mountain Books). Whitelock—a true believer in a Shirley MacLaine of astromony psychometry—explains how beginners can become clairvoyant or find their guardian angel.



Passages

DEBB Popular 1960s singer Dewey Springfield, 59, of breast cancer, in Henley-on-Thames, England. Born in Lancashire, her hit songs included "I Glib Mind to Be with You," "Son of a Preacher Man" and "Wishin' and Hopin'." After disappearing from the charts in the early 1970s, Springfield moved to Los Angeles and campaigned for animal rights. She was to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on March 14 with Paul McCartney and Bruce Springsteen.

DIEGO Retired United States Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, 93, from complications following a heart replacement surgery, in Arlington, Va. A Republican appointed by President Richard Nixon, he wrote the 1973 decision that legalized abortion and set off one of the most explosive political debates in U.S. history.

DIED: Lord Denning, 100, one of Britain's most revered judges, who led the inquiry into the 1963 Profumo scandal in Westminster, England. Denning ruled in 1982 after 30 years on the bench.

DIED: Steve de Souza Al-Khatib, 65, wife of Barbara, a key witness ally in the Gulf; in his place in Massena, N.Y. He suffered a heart attack shortly after meeting with visiting U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen.

DIED: American tennis champion Bill Tilden, 80, in Manhattan. He won eight doubles titles at the U.S. Open during the 1920s.

DIED: Author and former Chukchansi woman Uva Atchison, 77, of cancer, in San Francisco. Atchison had assembled the nation's greatest cookbook collection, with more than 2,000 books.

OUTVERDIED: The mother of the Montreal Jeff Le Lièvre comedy festival. Gilbert Ross's sexual assault sentence, by the Quebec Superior Court in St-Hyacinthe, Que. (Ross, 44, had pleaded guilty, then appealed his original Quebec court sentence that included a \$1,100 fine and a year's probation.

APPOINTED: Bishop John Baycroft, 65, of Ottawa, as the Anglican Church representative to the Vatican by the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey. He is the first Canadian to hold the post.

CLARK'S CRISIS

The RCMP raids the British Columbia premier's home

BY JENNIFER HUNTER

BC Premier Glen Clark lives in a modest, singleplex home on Anna Drive on Victoria's east side, near the Burnaby boundary. Late Tuesday night, his wife, Diane, a public school teacher, was home as usual with the couple's two young children, Brad and Layne. Around 7 p.m., three RCMP officers from Vancouver's commercial crime section bursted up the stairs to the Clark home, followed by a reporter and cameraman from local station BCTV. The police produced a search warrant and slowly began to snoop the house. One hour later, the reporter returned home, entering through the back door to avoid the intrusive television cameras. There was, however, a RCMP van parked in the lane in rear of the house. The cameras caught Clark in his kitchen, silent still on, as all went underway at the back, with a look of uneasiness on his face, pacing back and forth with folded arms. At around 8 p.m., the police left.

The following morning, the RCMP issued a news release saying the search warrant was related to an investigation of an application for a charity cause licence. The applicant was Fern, a 24-year-old man named Dimitrios Paliaros, one of Clark's wing-liners whose children played with the premier's kids. He was also a contractor who had done renovations on Clark's home. Just before the police raided the premier's home, they had charged Paliaros with running an illegal gambling operation in the North Burnaby Inn—a place known for its strip joints where Hell's Angels gang members like to gather, and the proposed site of the charity cause. Paliaros's business partner in the licence application for the cause—which was approved in principle last December by the BC cabinet over the objections of local MLA's and Burnaby city council—was North Burnaby Inn owner Steve Ng, who once was an investment in an Internet strip-joint site.

In its news release, the RCMP said its warrant to search Clark's house "did not allege any criminal activity" on the part of the premier. But as details of the case emerged, speculation increased about whether the savvy, street-smart Clark could hope to survive as leader—and, source's told, Merlin's son highly placed New Democrats were clamoring for his resignation. The news that the RCMP searched a premier's home was shocking in itself. "That



At the North Burnaby Inn, a separate investigation into illegal gambling that resulted in the seizure of \$40,000 in cash and the arrest of 20 patrons and seven employees

was a very powerful image," said Norman Roth, a political scientist at the University of Victoria. Clark, he added, "can present his innocence all he likes, but people saw the police in his house on television and there is a kind of action that when there's smoke there's fire." Some observers publicly minded that the incident could prove to be the last straw for the New Democratic party government, which had already hit the cellar in the polls—barely 20 per cent, compared with more than 30 per cent for the opposition Liberals.

There was, at least, increasing public pressure on the premier to resign. "Do the right thing, Glen," demanded Michael Soper, the son of Victoria-based columnist for *The Province* newspaper. "Stop aside." Liberal Leader Gordon Campbell echoed the demand. "The government," he said, "has become paralyzed." And some noted a parallel between Clark's present situation and that of his predecessor, Mike Harcourt. He resigned in 1985 over an



TV image of Clark during search of his home (above). "I am very troubled by yesterday's events, as is my family," he said while prechristening massence



other scandal involving gambling—the Bicentac affair, in which party members drew \$40,000 earned from charity bingo games into NDP coffers—although he was not involved.

The illegal gambling charges against Clark's neighbour, Paliaros, were laid following a five-month investigation by the Burnaby RCMP. The operators of The Lumberjack Social Club, an outfit run by Paliaros and located in the North Burnaby Inn on Hastings Street, the area last week, police seized \$40,000 in cash and arrested 20 patrons and seven employees. But the RCMP was quick to say that the search of Clark's home, and the charges against Paliaros, stem from two separate investigations, one focused on the cause licence, the other on illegal gambling. "They are completely independent investigations," said Sgt. Dennis Cooke of the Burnaby detachment.

The day after Paliaros's arrest, and the raid on the Clark home, the premier retreated hale and hearty with his aides in the government's Vancouver cabinet offices, and did not make a statement until late afternoon. "I am very troubled by yesterday's events, as is my family," Clark firmly declared. Prechristening his innocence, he said

that last summer he "gave explicit instructions" to his staff to "ensure I was insulated from the decision-making process for this [North Burnaby Inn] licence application."

The premier's aides also distributed a memo, dated July 17, 1988, and written by Adrian Doh, Clark's principal secretary. Manufacturing Pharmas, the poorly punctuated memo said the premier "imparted to me that a neighbour, Mr. Paliaros was one of the applicants for a cause in Burnaby. Mr. Paliaros is a friend of the premier." Doh continued: "Given this relationship, the premier asked me to ensure that he be kept in the loop in any aspect of the decision on Burnaby causes. Whatever the decision, he wanted to be part of the outcome." On Thursday afternoon, Clark's lawyer, David Gibbons, a garrulous, sharp-tongued solicitor whose clients normally include drug dealers and murderers, lambasted the press for "scrutinizing" reports and "gossip (hoofing)" and criticized the RCMP for entering the premier's home as what he described as the deal of night. "It was terrifying to think that," Gibbons asserted. "You can imagine what Mrs. Clark felt like."

Surprised TV reporters, the well-known criminal lawyer said the premier had paid for "every angle of it." Paliaros had prepared for renovations on his Anna Drive house. And, he repeated incessantly, Clark "did not participate in any decision-making on this licence." In fact, a government news release last December said "the results of the [North Burnaby Inn] licence evaluation were presented to cabinet for decision" on Dec. 15, and records indicate Clark was at that cabinet meeting. But Gibbons claimed the cabinet did not, in fact, make the decision. That responsibility, he said, was handed to Minister of Employment and Investment Mike Ferguson.

Ferguson, returning from a trade mission to Central and South America late last Thursday, concurred, saying he was the only one responsible for the North Burnaby Inn licence approval. "It was my decision," the minister told reporters. He also said he was unaware the RCMP was looking into illegal gambling at the North Burnaby Inn. "I had been aware there was a criminal investigation going on," he said, "but I would not have commented any constitutional approval." (Ferguson, the less than a constitutional lawyer, has since left the ministry. Clark's old British Columbia's conflict of interest commissioner, H. A. D. Oliver, to one of his lawyers, added: "I have fully confidence that review will show that I have conducted myself appropriately in this matter." Still, the Liberal's Campbell has called the search along with the licence approval was a "cabinet decision" made by Ian Douglas, the minister who was later by Burnaby mayor "responsible for a coverup.")

The North Burnaby Inn saga has been watched with dismaying by members of the Burnaby City Council—the majority of whom are members of the NDP. They had strongly opposed granting a cause licence to the inn. So had the local MLA, NDP backbencher Peter Corrigan. The resulting opposition—so many people in the community—wanted to maintain a low-density residential area around Hastings Street and felt a cause would spur other efforts to revitalize the neighbourhood. But after a letter was sent to government officials and to Ferguson underlining the council's concerns, "We told him there was no possible way we were going to consider that kind of development on Hastings Street," said Burnaby councillor Derek Corrigan. And when approved in principle (but not granted) by the provincial government, council was incredulous. "We couldn't understand why a cause would get approval when the council opposed it," Corrigan said. "The view we it was, 'What part of the word no do you not understand?'" According to its own guidelines, the B.C. government is supposed to respect municipal wishes before giving an on-site licence is granted.

Equally disturbing was the revelation by Steve Letts, the director of the Gaming Audit and Investigations office, that his office did not

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CANADA

complete the requisite background investigation on the licence application before it was given the nod by Fernworth. "It is still not completed," Letts admitted. But last October, the Canadian Audit office joined in the RCMP investigation. "I'm not going to say anything more," Letts allowed. "No reason to predate with events of the last few days, we are sorting out a lot of details now."

Even if Clark is completely exonerated, the question remains: why would the province approve a licence application that was opposed by local politicians and had not been referred to check if the man behind the scheme would be appropriate licence operator? In fact, Malaysian-born Ng, Phairan's business partner, had an investment in Storm Communications International Inc., which operated online gambling and live broadcasts of strip shows from a club called No. Five Orange in Vancouver's trendy Downtown Eastside. "The guys behind this seem like a pretty sketchy bunch," said Patrick Smith, professor of political science at Simon Fraser University. "From one on the Internet to whatever, they are not what I would call officers of the business community." Liberal Leader Campbell concluded that the events of the past week reinforce the need to approve licence applications in a more transparent way. "These kinds of decisions," he said, "should stop being made behind closed doors."

Before the shocking scene of the police raid on Clark's house, there had been whispers about disaffection within the NDP over the premier's leadership. Those grew to a roar in some quarters of the party last week, as some NDP stalwarts described what happened as "disgusting." "It just can't be true," the party might have told Finance Minister Joe MacPhail or Attorney General Ugo DiNuzzo. Still, Clark has supporters who believe the police went clearly what they have done and, but friends hope, clear his name. "This is a terrible position to put the premier in," said Bill Taitman, Clark's former communications director. During the coming weeks, the 14 search warrants obtained by the RCMP in investigating the granting of the licence to Clark—including the warrant for the search of Clark's house—may be unsealed and questions about what the police were actually looking for could be answered.

Some predict Clark will survive this crisis because he is a no-nonsense political authority within the party and controlling his caucus. "He is a scrapper," said political scientist Smith. "When he gets into a corner he fights his way out." But even if he does get off the ropes this time, his party's future looks dim—and will not be helped by the enduring image of a nightmarish raid on the premier's house.

By GUY L'HERMITTE in Victoria



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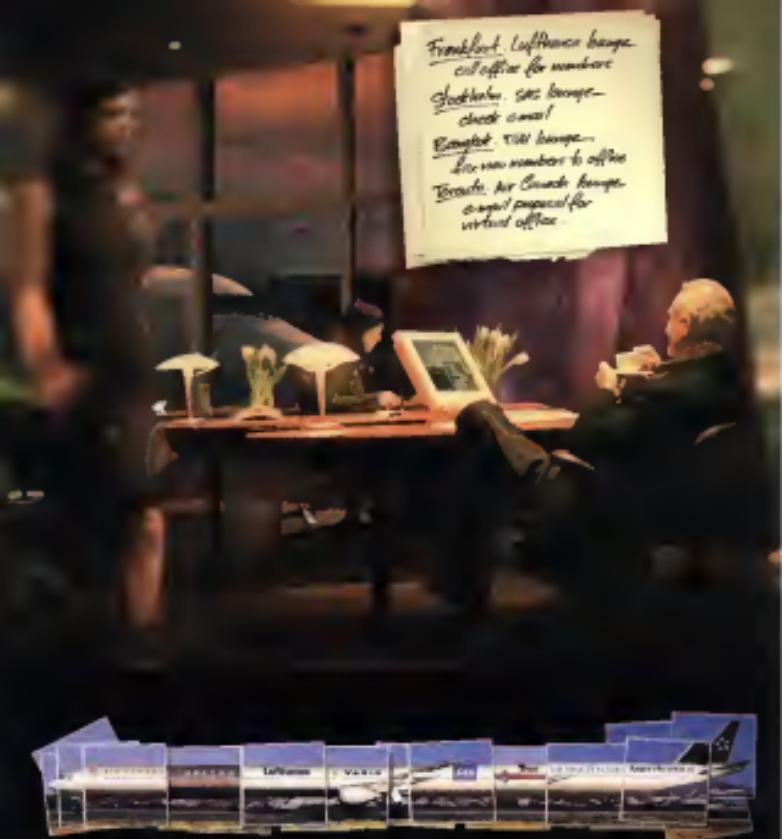
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CANADA/OBITUARY

A West Coast legend

Jack Webster set the standard for talk radio

His voice, believed him the lowest register of a Highland bagpipe, either engaging or irritating, depending on your point of view. His manner was gruff with anyone who differed when answering his tough questions, yet generous with ordinary people who sought his help. His jowly face, thick Scotts' eyebrows and round features made him instantly recognizable on the street. And he was usually smiling. Glaswegian barr changerooshed him at once. Jack Webster, who died last week at 80 of congestive heart failure, was a former newspaperman, a drugged, irreverent newscaster who loved the thrill and party of a tough interview. The morning television host he became in 1977 to 1986 was most viewed for many British Columbians. "He defined journalism here," says former television producer Cameron Bell, who worked with Webster at CKNW radio and BCTV. "If Webster got onto something it became news, and it was news because Webster said it was."

Former Vancouver Sun columnist Dennis Boyd says Webster always insisted he was neither a personality nor a television anchor, but simply a reporter. "That's what he held onto," Boyd says. Webster used his interviews that his detractors claimed he made his living by finding a matchstick at 9 a.m. and building it into a bonfire by noon. "There's no one turnover who liked puns on battle of wits and merchant ships," his mother, Dolly, was ambivalent for her three surviving

sons in that. Webster conceded. "But I always tried to find a matchstick that suffered a lot of people."

Because of the huge audience for Webster, visiting politicians, movie stars and other celebrities traveled to the Vancouver studio to submit to his gruff inquisition. Pierre Trudeau did it several times. "He was the only one I was ever truly nervous about interviewing in all my years in radio and television," Webster wrote of their testy exchanges. "Actor Shirley MacLaine claimed that Webster brought out her maternal instincts. Prime Minister John Chrétien, who called a Webster after show, "a truly unforgettable experience," passed him a being snapp'd "a select few in any field who achieve the status of legend in their lifetime." And British Columbians, detractors and devotees alike, found it difficult to resist naming in. "Maybe some people didn't like him," acknowledges Webster's closest pal, former labour leader Jack Morris. "But they were respected. He didn't get away with it." His sons claimed his creativity was coined a portmanteau of another. "He bawled and he howled," Bell says. "You could be extraordinarily soft and serene."

Webster was born in Glasgow in 1918, son of an iron turner who liked puns on battle of wits and merchant ships. His mother, Dolly, was ambivalent for her three surviving

boys. Mother died at age 73 and encouraged his journalism career. Jack signed on at the Gingras Evening News when he was 14 and worked for radio Scottish programs before marrying Margaret Macdonald, fighting as a major in the Second World War, and immigrating to Canada. Arriving in Vancouver in 1947 with his wife and two small daughters, he went straight to the Vancouver Sun to search for work. "Another bloody lounge," griped the morning editor, Mac Strachan. "You can't do it," replied Webster. "You can't, and I'm damn good reporter." He got the job and proved to be good in it, while gaining a reputation for cheekiness.

In 1952, he left the Sun to work in radio in Vancouver, where he introduced many Canadians to the spectacle of the phone-in show. "He had an ability to get to the heart of stories that people cared about. He used the phone to unlock the curiosity of the audience," recalls Bell. He made frequent appearances on the pioneering CBC program *This Hour Has Seven Days* in the mid-60s. But he was best known in British Columbia for *Webster for Winter*, a TV phenomenon, says Bell, that drew a morning audience of 200,000 to 300,000. After retirement, he was a panelist on *Front Page Challenge* until well into the 1990s.

For all his laconic bluster and gregarious bonhomie, Webster's life had moments of great sadness. Before he and Margaret married, they lost a daughter in 1936 and gave her up for adoption. The experience emotionally shattered Margaret. The couple had three other children—Linda, Jenny and Jack Jr—but the fragile Margaret worked hard to raise the lost daughter, Jean, and they even eventually reunited in Scotland in 1972. Last week, Jean and her siblings were at Webster's bedside when he died. Margaret died in 1985, and her passing, Webster wrote, "somehow called into question my entire life. I couldn't help feeling that I had made the mistakes of making my job more important than my family." His son claims otherwise, noting his dad made time every Saturday to play a round of golf with him. "He was also great with the nine grandchildren," Jack Jr. says. "He'd play inside games with them, making quarters out of their ears and cause out their nose."

Over the past few years, Webster's memory succumbed to the onslaught of Alzheimer's disease. "He compensated with the force of his personality," Jack Jr. says, "but he would get frustrated when he would forget things he knew he should know." One thing he knew even at the end: that generations of British Columbians would never forget his commanding voice and his urge to raise their lives better.

JENNIFER HUNTER

FIFTY YEARS OF CONFEDERATION

BY JOHN DeMONT

White Lake Township has a little life span—which is all ten, given the state of the fishery on Bonneville Bay these days—the blues to hop in his half ton, light up one of his hand-rolled cigarettes and drive out toward the Cape. It is a short spur, just low-lying shrubs and a wispy white fishermen's bungalow used to stand. Hunting out town, Tremont, 42, with which, dark moustache and a round face starting to show where a life spent outdoors can longer be hidden, the following words come from the mouth of a government spokesman—progress—driving up the house of the waterfront. For a minute, he can put out of his mind the memory of the house he used to live in, the house where he had lived all his life—and the worrisome fact that everything seems suddenly all in this place that the young have, for the most part, abandoned.

Where he stops his track, the road—and civilization—end. It's a place to where, 300 years ago, Indians excommunicate John Calver probably made first for the first time in the New World. Tremblett has been here since 1964. In April 1985 his last wet-dreams not to be disturbed every spot. He watched his brother drown in the icy waters, himself clinging to his overturned vessel for six hours until he too came. Still, Tremblett says he could never live anywhere else: "I don't even like St. John's—it's just too familiar. I guess I'm the last of two looking out over the ocean. 'We've been living here for generations. It's hard now but this is our place...we take the best with the worst'."

Anyone who has ever visited Newfoundland and Labrador can understand why the place fosters such fierce loyalty in its residents. Today, a half-century after Newfoundland joined Confederation, it remains raw, overwhelming and close to the elements—it's 271,896 square kilometers, one of the last great expanses of wilderness left in North America.

the planet. In an age of the Y2K bug, virus bugs and techno-crash, it is a pleasure where men still hunt and page on the Atlantic ice and many people live in such isolation that they can only be reached by snowmobile, boat or float plane. And there is a stubbornness in the inhabitants that has helped them survive everything the hard land throws at them.

St. John's after Newfoundland joined Canada, change is a constant. Since the government's massive, the cod fishery, collapsed in the early 1990s, the outports have been dying. The young and ambitious continue to leave the province, looking for a better future. Political leaders, meanwhile, see botching new economic muscle cases—such as "new" Newfoundland. But there is a fear that the very elements that make Newfoundland so compellingly different from the rest of Canada could be disappearing, too.

At the very least, the province seems on the cusp of wrenching change—perhaps as wrenching in its decision to join Canada three decades ago. And what Larry Tremblett wants to know is he holds out at the waters fished by his father, grandfather and great grandfather; will there be a place for people like him in this reconfigured Newfoundland?

Brian Tolm has a vision. And what the visionary sees—as clearly as he had the power to perceive it since the Atlanic—was the land of his forebears. For most of modern history Ireland was a stagnant island at the margin of a great continent, living a slow death in its best and brightest moments elsewhere. But, during a few decades, Ireland transformed itself into an economic powerhouse through a combination of information technology, manufacturing, tourism and entrepreneurial grit. In its model Tolm believes can be exported, one country at a time. Now, he and his historic dataudence are the future.

And the fact that political leaders have been talking about devolution since Newfoundland joined Confederation on March 30, 1949, does not seem to have been one bit. "There are a lot of precedents here," he stresses. "It will work for Iceland and it can work for Newfoundland and Labrador. All that stops us are the limits of our own imagination. It is a question of rewriting the script that says we are the poor cousins of Confederation."

Although broad sections of the island still seem trapped in the past, that revision has already begun. The power of the mercantile elite who for so long held sway in the seaports and commercial centres has dissipated, even as the standard of living of all Newfoundlanders has improved during Confederation. The influence of the Catholic church, weakened by a series of broad social scandals during the late 1800s, declined even further last year when Tolton's government finally brought in legislation secularizing the public school system. In 1946, the only Newfoundlanders with university degrees were those wealthy enough to pay for an education on the Canadian mainland, England or the United States. Nowdays, Memorial University of Newfoundland, which began granting degrees the same year Newfoundland joined Canada, is turning out some 3,000 graduates a year. "The story of Newfoundland in the last 30 years is one of remarkable educational and technological development," says Jim Hart, Minister of Education. Hart, too, is a native of Newfoundland, but he grew up in Montreal. His mother, a former schoolteacher, was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, and she followed her husband, a painter, to Montreal in 1912. They eventually settled in Quebec City, where Hart's father became a painter. Hart's mother died in 1946, and Hart's father died in 1952.



A NEW COURSE: 1998 (Death Rites with Judgement) envisages a far different future for this native province and its capital, St. John's.

ment, the province's unemployment rate is the highest in Canada, and nearly 10 percentage points above the national average. And the great recession continues—in 1997–1998 Newfoundland suffered a net loss of 14,000 jobs.

But there are hopeful signs. For one thing, a new, scaled-down—and, ironically, richer—slavery has emerged from the wreckage of the 1992 cod moratorium. In 1996, 27,000 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians fell full-time in the industry, compared with more than 47,900 in the peak years before the moratorium. Inshore fishermen—those with boats under 10 meters in length—continue to struggle. But those who can longer boats ideally suited to go farther offshore in search of fish are doing well, at least in the short term, which

JOYFUL CAMPAIGN:
Seaswood is all smiles
in 1993 election



STILL MOURNING AFTER FIVE DECADES

In St. John's has a granite statue, it may well be Grace Sparke's, a tiny, 91-year-old former schoolteacher with a laugh as gentle as wind chimes in a light house. Her position within the province's "Story of Confederation" is much more than a mere footnote. She is entitled to stand in a group of honour. Newfoundlanders who know her say that Sparke "has a unique place." But it will come as something of a shock when, after lifting a smaller piece of fruitcake, the otherwise equanimous manager of holder of honorary degrees from Memorial University in St. John's and her alma mater, Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., sits back in her chair, marks at the afternoon midpoint and says of Joey Seaswood, a man who rarely Newfoundlanders consider smart: "I wish someone would have given him pause before the whole thing got started."

The thing was the notorious, heart-wrenching campaign that brought Newfoundland into Confederation a minute before midnight on March 31, 1949. For Seaswood, and the rest of the confederates, the love of provincialism was worth the divisive battle that literally pained along against sibling. But for others, something else when Britain's oldest colony joined Canada. The very day that Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent and Gordon Bradley, another member of the confederate cause, carved the first strokes of Newfoundland's coat of arms into a black shield at the base of Parliament's Peace Tower, some flags in St. John's flew at half mast, men wore black ties and armbands and some horsemen draped their horses in black crepe.

Fifty years later, the resounding contention and not just among the participants in the great drama, like Sparke, who travelled the sort of posts campaigning against Confederation in the lead-up to the two

macabre referendums of 1945. No one can deny that union with Canada brought federal transfer payments, the security of a social safety net and, as a result, a level of prosperity to the province—at least while the rest of Canada did. But the thought has been circulating that Newfoundland had remained on the raw. But among many Newfoundlanders there still lingers another remnant of the story that Ottawa and the British government conspired to tether the island into Canada and that, since then, Confederation has bled away all of Newfoundland's pride, spirit and resource riches. "The 'Confederates' was a story," stresses John Pattrick, a history lecturer at Memorial who is writing a book on the subject, "far better or worse English than we are."

A sense of resentment over how Confederation has thrashed out echoes through Newfoundland's popular culture. It resonates in feature films such as *Saint-Nicolas* in 1982, with its allegation of outright fraud and manipulation, and the old and new Newfoundland patriotic songs that were gathered together in *We Were Adults*, a 1989 recording that has sold well across the island. It provides the focus for *A Love For Fathers*, a play by St. John's playwright Tom Galli, slated for performance this summer at the province's Stephenville Theatre Festival. The play's tragic last lines, uttered by the staunchly anti-confederate hero, are: "She's gone. We're alone."

In part, that attitude is a harboring back to a conscripted past as a dominion. British navigator Sir Humphrey Gilbert took nominal possession of the island for the Queen of England in 1583. For the next two centuries, Newfoundland was a fishing station, ruled by the admiral of the British fishing fleet. Responsible government was finally

granted in 1855. But the prospect of joining Canada has divided Newfoundlanders ever since Lord Dufferin suggested it for the first time in his famous report published in 1858. The anti-confederates—inspired by a rousing song whose title, *Cave Near Your Puff*, Cassiopeia Hild was itself a warning—won a decisive election on the issue in 1869. But the question of Confederation continued to surface in the decades that followed—and become particularly acute in 1904, after Britain swapped self-government when Newfoundland seemed on the verge of defaulting on its foreign debt. (The Commission of Government, made up of officials appointed by Britain, remained in power until Confederation.)

By the end of the Second World War, though, Newfoundland seemed again to be self-sufficient, it had the world's two lowest airports in Gander and Goose Bay, a booming fishery, a per capita debt that was a fraction of Canada's and the province's untold mineral riches in Labrador. And that is precisely why some Newfoundlanders are so aghast when they look at the state of their province today. The rest of Canada may feel they are losing its youngest province intact with their tax dollars. But Benji Tobin, the informed premier, says that Confederation transformed Newfoundland from a feudal fiefdom ruled by a few rich merchants into a true democracy where ordinary Newfoundlanders "are now the merchants, the doctors, the lawyers and the members of the House of Assembly."

But when critics consider the legacy of Confederation, they point

Walter Cartier, a former Newfoundland MP and member of the Newfoundland House of Assembly, recently wrote in the St. John's *Telegram* that the terms of union, under which Canada assumed Newfoundland's debt but absolved control over the fishery, were so onerous that Ottawa and St. John's needed to go back to the bargaining table and come up with a new arrangement. Even blunter is media magnate Harry Steele, the chairman and chief executive officer of Newfoundland Capital Corp. Ltd., which owns newspapers and radio stations throughout the country. The son of a rabid confederate, he was just 30 when Newfoundland joined Canada. "If I could have known then what it was going to do to us I would never have voted yes," he now declares.

For many, the anger lingers over the process rather than the end result. James Halley was a young lawyer practising in St. John's in 1946 when Newfoundland held its first election since 1858—not to select a government, but to elect delegates to a national convention that the British government had called to consider Newfoundland's political future. Newfoundlanders themselves would decide their fate in a national referendum, but the question was which options would be on the ballot. It took two years of wrangling, but in the end, the delegates voted to include two possibilities: a return to responsible government, or maintaining the status quo of having their affairs run by the commissioners. It took the intervention of the commissioners to get Confederation on the ballot—a point that troubles

Some Newfoundlanders regret the decision to join Canada



IMPERSONATED: Sparke campaigned against Confederation

in the 1949 Supreme Court of Canada decision that gave Ottawa control over the fisheries offfield and whatever other natural resources lie buried under the ocean floor off the coast of Newfoundland. And they stoutly maintain that Ottawa's control over the fishery had much to do with the demise of the cod stocks, which devastated the entire province. "It took Ottawa 40 years to destroy a cod fishery that had been the island's lifeline for more than 400 years," laments Eric Miller, 37, a fisherman from Grand Bank, one of Newfoundland's most storied fishing communities.

No wonder the five-decadic events are still being replayed.

confederates to this day. "It was a shotgun marriage," recalls Halley, now 76 and retired in St. John's. "The fox was in."

The campaign for votes dictated everything, high drama and low cartoon: even bits of corruption as part of the confederate campaign which was said to have been backed, clandestinely, by the federal Liberal party. In his recent book *Confederation: Decoding Newfoundland's Past*, James Miller, a history professor at Memorial University, called the campaign "an exercise in blunt realpolitik which caused widespread flagrancy and justifiable offence." On one side were the forces of Confederation led by Seaswood, the all-angled journalist and labour organizer who crosscrossed the province and blazed the state awareness with his promises of family allowances and better pensions.

Their opponents included the powerful Roman Catholic Church and wealthy St. John's merchants, most of whom were anxious to see Newfoundland remain its own elected government. Adding to the drama and confusion was a splinter group, led by prominent St. John's businesswoman Chesley Coyer—who said her bid would be a powerful provincial and federal Tory cabinet minister—tying economic union with the United States. When the vote was finally held on June 3, 1949, Confederation secured a responsible government by about 5,200 votes, with the existing British government winning a distant third. Without a clear majority, a second referendum offering only Confederation or independence was held on July 23, 1948. Confederation was won by less than 7,000 votes.

Gordon Winter, arguably the last living Father of Confederation, remembers feeling profuse and content when he stood inside Government House in St. John's on April 1, 1949—the day after Newfoundland became Canada's 10th province. Four months earlier, he had been part of the Newfoundland team who negotiated the terms of union with Ottawa. As he and right others were sworn in as Seaswood's first cabinet, Winter remembers looking out about the feel they had struck. But he also recalls being informed by the Minister of the Canadian parts of the city that day: "Evelyn's son, father had lowered the Union Jack in front of his home to half-mast in mourning." It is hard to convey the passions people felt that day, Winter, 66, now says. Except for those who still feel the sameache of loss, as if 50 years ago was just yesterday.

JOHN DEMONT in St. John's

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Bruce Wallace



The home fires burn

The reason Jim Peterson looked so ridiculous, so naive and so uncomfortable trying to justify Liberal tax policy towards stay-at-home parents is simple. He was defending the indefensible. Peterson suggested the reason families with stay-at-home parents get a rougher shake from Revenue Canada than families with two working parents is because the latter "are putting in twice the working hours." A crock, of course, and Peterson apologized for the next day.

Trouble is, Peterson's original statement is actually a few sentences of Liberal doctrine. The Liberals will go behind closed doors at the United Nations this week to answer charges brought by Calgary家庭研究者 Beverley Smith that the tax system is biased against families where one parent stays home. The Liberals don't deny it. That's the way they want it. "Any new measure targeted only against parents who stay home to provide care to children would only reinforce barriers to employment by reducing the incentive to engage in paid work," states Ottawa's brief. That test of 1970s liberalism—that government has a duty to help women in the workforce while regarding those who raise their own children alone as rebarbative remnants from a more primitive age—remains an article of faith in much of the federal Liberal party, the media and academia. It is why Peterson walked into a wall by attacking stay-at-home mothers. The Liberal party's radar screen does not account for something so at odds with its accepted wisdom.

The issue is straightforward: the tax code favors families with two working parents. The most glaring advantage is the child care expense tax deduction, \$7,000 for every child up to age 7, and up to \$4,000 for those aged 7 to 18—regardless of income. But families with one parent staying at home and one wage earner get no child expenses deduction at all. Bloody Fry, necessary of course for the status of women, demands this unequal state of affairs on the grounds that women who decide to work outside the home incur expenses mainly for day care. What Fry ignores is the much higher cost of the decision to leave the workforce to stay home

with the kids, the average full-time working woman earns over \$30,000 a year. So the child care deduction, in the C.D. Howe Institute's view, "has redistributed after-tax income away from people who care for their children themselves and towards families with children in other provided care."

Fry insists Ottawa does care about women who work in the home. But Liberal actions speak louder than Liberal platitudes. The 1998 budget increased discrimination by upping the size of the child care deduction. And Fry reluctantly admits mothers who work outside the home do work longer hours than stay-at-home moms (the very thing that got Peterson in trouble). They must do housework after returning from their outside job, she says. Her laughable premise seems to be that stay-at-home moms put their feet up in the evening after an eight-hour shift of child care. Those mothers, Fry told Maclean's, should be able to do the cleaning, laundry, cooking and shopping while also caring for children during the day.

Leaving aside whether we even want governments calculating the time it takes to iron a shirt, they have no business trying to influence family values. No one should presume to tell parents whether to stay home or work, forge a second income or sacrifice time at home to get one. These are personal choices. And governments shouldn't use the tax code to engineer one outcome over another.

Unfortunately, many liberals still use such criticism as "1950s thinking." The answer to anyone who questions what they mean is a self-explanatory truth into unison then, if I could add a tough question: are they ridiculous? Dan Quayle was when he suggested Holly wood might want to stop glorifying the single-parent family. This is a disease for modern liberalism. When uncomfortable questions are raised about the status of the world we have created—the sense of surplus long working hours with raising children or the rise in family breakdowns—the Liberal dodge is to say "We won't tax back the clock." But if liberals don't start coming up with real answers, they will find themselves looking as silly as the Liberal party did last week, out of touch and in retreat.



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COPPS SUES HUSTLER

Hegemony Minister Sheila Copps said she has served notice that she will sue the Montreal-based Canadian edition of Hustler, the hard-core magazine headquartered in Los Angeles, for libel. In January, the magazine ran a speed contest asking readers to match a head shot of Copps with a selection of pictures of penitents, and to write in explaining why they would like to have sex with the minister.

MARIJUANA TRIALS

Federal Health Minister Allan Rock announced the government will hold clinical trials on the medicinal use of marijuana. Many people suffering from such diseases as cancer, AIDS and multiple sclerosis insist that the drug eases pain and some of the symptoms of their illnesses.

A SHORT REPRIEVE

The financially troubled Expos will stay in Montreal at least for another 60 days. Although a deadline for the team to have a new Canadian ownership group and stadium financing in place expired on the weekend, baseball commissioner Bud Selig wants to exhaust all alternatives for the Expos to survive in Montreal before he allows president Claude Brochu to sell the franchise or move it to Virginia.

SENATE STANDOFF

MPs square off with senators—and with each other—over the Red Chamber's request for an increase of almost \$3 million in the \$44.6-million budget. With Reformers, New Democrats and some backbench Liberals agitating against the request, Sharon Corlett, the deputy government leader in the Senate, threatened a work slowdown if the increase is not approved.

RELIVING THE HORROR

A murder case that shook Toronto almost 15 years ago finally made it to court when the trial of Francis Carl Roy-Riley, Roy is charged with killing Alison Penrett, an 11-year-old who disappeared in July, 1985, after being lured from her home by someone claiming to be a photographer. Her naked body—she had been sexually assaulted and strangled—was found two days later. Police say new DNA evidence has linked Roy, an earlier suspect in the case, to the crime. He has pleaded not guilty.



McClung with Premier Ralph Klein in Judgement

A judicial apology

Supporters of Judge John McClung, known as "Baz" in Alberta's legal community, came out swinging in the court of public opinion. Last week, the controversial Alberta Court of Appeal judge apologized for his infamous attack on Supreme Court of Canada Justice Claire Ulphren-Dube, who had written a critical judgment when the Supreme Court unanimously overturned a McClung decision. McClung quickly blushed back by suggesting

Canadian Civil Liberties Association, called for the Canadian Judicial Council, which is now investigating complaints about McClung's conduct, to drop its review. Some let in to the office accused Ulphren-Dube of having female biases—some in other communities continued to criticize what they viewed as McClung's reactionary views. Ulphren-Dube, meanwhile, did not comment on the matter.

The Duplessis orphans

It was a long time coming. But last week, Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard used in the national assembly and apologized, on behalf of his province, to the so-called Duplessis orphans. The orphans—many of them illegitimate children, were placed in church-run orphanages and institutions from the 1930s to the 1960s—the era of premier Maurice Duplessis. But they claim, they were falsely transferred to psychiatric hospitals—in order to take advantage of larger federal subsidies. There, many of them were sexually and physically abused and subjected to electroshock and lobotomies. "The past can never be undone," Bouchard said as he offered the orphans "our most sincere apologies."

But he also paid homage to the devotion of the Roman Catholic orders that ran the institutions at the time. "That era may have had its share of misery and mistakes," he prevaricated, "but it also saw many examples of great devotion." Bouchard rejected the demand by the 3,000 surviving orphans that the province hold a public inquiry into their treatment. And he further angered them with his announcement of a special \$3-million aid fund. "That's \$1,000 a person for children who were legally incarcerated, falsely diagnosed, aspersed," said Denis Roy, the head of the Committee of Duplessis Orphans. "It's a scandal on top of a scandal—it's a humiliation on top of another humiliation."

POLITICS

A new premier

The territory of Nunavut's first premier will be Paul Okalik, a 34-year-old lawyer who represents the riding of Inuvik West, and is considered one the bright lights of the new legislature. Okalik was chosen by Nunavut's 15 MLAs, who were elected in Feb. 15 and will begin governing the territory on April 1 when it officially splits from the Northwest Territories. The legislature will not be organized along party lines.

Okalik beat out Jack Arnault, 48, former Liberal MP who unsuccessfully considered the race. The new premier will face plenty of problems as he sets out to govern the two-million-square-kilometre territory and its 25,000 people, including high rates of unemployment and widespread alcohol and substance abuse. Okalik knows these challenges only too well: a teenage drifter who was expelled from high school, he later returned to finish his life at school and attend university and law school. He vows to make education a priority.

TELLING HER STORY

Lewinsky's laments may hurt prosecutor Ken Starr

Every Barbara Walters' celebrity interview has a signature moment, the one where the interviewer's lower lip trembles and the tears start to flow. Devotionals like the ones we heard in our air are not exceptions. The moist moment arrived exactly one hour and 41 minutes into the two-hour chat, when Lewinsky pondered the devastating effect of the past year of scandal on her mother and father. The incuse gracious giggle that punctuated her descriptions of even the scandalous episodes in her life with Bill was the only sound she made. "Bill Clinton gave way to Bill," she chided, "to 'help' the man. Monica Lewinsky then's a person and there's a family. And there has been so much pain that has been caused by all of this. It has been so destructive."

In the interview and in *Mrs. Bush's Story*, the tell-all book by British biographer Andrew Morton, Lewinsky finally stopped not on her own—free for the first time to shape her story without most of the strictures imposed by a legal investigation. After being subjected to so much political spin, she was able to do her own spinning, portraying herself as a free-spirited but benevolent young woman who found herself both in love with the President of the United States and being used by him as a "power" against her. She made a point of apologizing to Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea "for what they've been through." And in a culture where fame and infamy often seem indistinguishable, she was able to use her metaphorical 15 minutes to start generating some serious money—at least \$7 million from her book advance, magazine deals and interviews free in Europe.

There were few revelations—act 2 marketing for a relationship already exhaustively documented by squads of investigators. Lewinsky, still only 25, did reveal more about her taste for side men. She told Moran that in 1996, while she was involved with Clinton, she

THE MONICA FOLLIES

THE MONEY

After what some call her "nightmarish" year, *Monica* on *Law & Order* finally began to cash in big-time last week. She agreed to take in \$1.5 million from her book deal, her photo shoot for European magazine *Playboy* and her interview with Brian's *Charmer* book, which has been sold to more than 25 countries. But she still owes an estimated \$3 million in legal bills.

The biggest winner may be the American Broadcasting Corp. Her interview with Barbara Walters, which Lewinsky did for free, brought in an estimated \$55 million for the network, according to industry watchers. It netted a 48.7 share—the percentage of households watching at least part of it—still second on the record celebrity interview, *Oprah Winfrey* talking with Michael Jackson, which garnered a 56.5 share in 1993. In Canada, a third of TV sets were tuned in to



The biggest winter may be the American Broadcasting Corp. Her interview with Barbara Walters, which Lewinsky did for, was bought in an \$80 million bid, the network, according to industry sources. It generated a 48% share—the percentage of households watching at least part of it—still the record for the most recent celebrity interview, Oprah Winfrey talking with Michael Jackson, which gained a 50% share in 1993. In Canada, a third of TV sets were

170

THE BOOK
Monica's Story
by British author
Andrew Morton.

on Amazon.com's Web-based bookstore. Publisher Martin's price is the book, owing at \$36.99 in Canada, U.S. advance sales of 4,000, nearly eating up its printing of 450,000 copies North America.

1

raiser for New Jersey Senator Bob Torricelli. There, as disco queen Gloria Gaynor took the stage, Clinton happily sang along to her song. *WWD*
—SWE

last year have shown him to be a much better boy than I ever knew. Since I was born, no a scold has ever been ill all the time."

Now I feel like it's a bit of a sideshow on the national stage, whatever happens," says Lewellen. "I'm not sure what Clinton has been through in his family and his experiences. Under the family law she received with him last year, Stark must approve interviews she gives and she is forbidden from directly criticizing his office. But Martin leaves me no doubt about what she thinks of the way the presenters behaved her, starting at Jan 16, 9, when they took her to a hotel room, and she says, "I've waited 27 years in prison for the old not-cooperative." "During his interview," Martin writes, "Kenneth Starr had an onerous Monica Lewinsky, and yet she felt that he had defiled and violated Monica physically, but by using his legal and constitutional power to stop every witness of her dignity and her humanity."

...and every change in our living has been shared. Clinton, a writer to whom subtlety is a stranger, titles his chapter about Lewinsky's arrival that day "Terror in Room 1022." After being led to lunch at the hotel by her erstwhile friend Linda Tripp, Lewinsky found herself surrounded by FBI agents and prosecutors who saw

her as far as her to their attempt to show that Clinton had lied and obstructed justice in Paula Jones's sexual harassment case. Lewinsky was held for 30 hours, writes Morton, and disengaged from contacting her lawyer or her family. Not only did they threaten to prosecute her, she recalls, but they said they would go after her mother as well. "It's so difficult to describe the raw openness, the raw level. It was as if my stomach had been cut open and someone had pointed and onto my wound."

By Morton's superheated account, she congealed behind her self. "The room had sliding windows, and she considered throwing herself out, to crash to her death through the glass canopy low." But "in her near-sighted and terrified state, she thought that the FBI had a sniper on the opposite building, ready to shoot her if she made any threatening or otherwise unwanted movement." Even now, Morton writes, "the frozen-faced figure of Kenneth Starr" continues to haunt Lewis: "Monica lived in fear of the special prosecutor, fearing that at any moment he will revoke her immunity and send her in as."

Overnight indeed. But if Lewinsky's account has any impact beyond feeding the curiosity of the dwindling circle of scandal aficionados, it may well be here. Nothing she says about Clinton is especially damning, but says the way she portrays Starr could blacken his even more. The U.S. Justice Department is mulling whether to launch an investigation into Starr's methods, including how he treated Lewinsky. Her account bolsters the case for that. In particular, Monica's Stereotypical cast has her now with a copy of Lewinsky's file affidavit, dredging a sexual relationship with Clinton even though it had been officially filed. By presenting her direct contact with her lawyer and telling her side of the story, it may be argued, Starr's people are implicated in causing one of the very circumstances that gave birth to filegate—they were instrumental in getting Monica to file a false affidavit.

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Linda, Paula, Joann,
Flowers and Kathleen.

THE CANADIAN CONNECTION
Lewinsky told Morton that, as the scandal broke, she and her mother briefly considered fleeing to Canada, but feared the FBI was watching every airport and border point. The longest she could have stayed in Canada as a tourist is six months—unless she applied for asylum as a refugee. An Ottawa spokeswoman said Lewinsky would have been eligible for a hearing.

WERTON WOODWARD
and SUSAN CH

'Grateful to walk out alive'

The tangled jungle foliage is so dense in southern Uganda that even on these rare days when the clouds part and the rain stops, sunlight barely penetrates to the forest floor. Mitch Kever, 24, a soft-spoken research scientist from Three Hills, Alta., has spent the past three years working to save the region's chimpanzees and giant forest gorillas, made famous in the 1986 movie *Gorillas in the Mist*. The dangers he faced in the jungle never daunted the thrill he felt whenever he caught a glimpse of the apes. Well-heeled environmentalists from around the world also paid up to \$6,000 to see the gorillas—and last week it cost eight of them their lives.

At a camp in Buhoma, a tourist centre in Uganda's Bwindi National Park, Kever and 13 tourists were rounded up by about 150 Rwandan rebels and marched off into the forest after a fire-fight with armed park officials. Six, including Kever, were set free, while the remaining eight were tortured—their skulls crushed and their bodies hacked by regional machete blades. Four were British, two American and two New Zealanders; ten rebels left on the bodies. The rebels said: "Americans and British, we don't want you to save our land. You support our enemy."

Aware of the severe blow to Uganda's tourist industry, President Yoweri Museveni vowed to hand down and kill the Interahamwe fighters—a violent lump group from the Hutu forces that led the massacre of up to 800,000 minority Tutsis and their moderates in neighbouring Rwanda in 1994. The rebels also targeted Kever and the surviving tourists, leaving a written message for Museveni, warning him to end his support of the ex-rebel Rwandan government. Three days after the kidnapping, a Rwandan army unit encircled in neighbouring Congo's east and killed 15 of the rebels after Ugandan forces chased them over the border.

As he rested in Kampala, Uganda's capital, Kever recounted his harrowing brush with death to *Maclean's* Senior Writer Tom Pennington. Kever's story:



A Canadian survivor recounts an escape from a massacre

Kevan Kever camped that night because

same time—everyone was right in the middle of the gunfire.

I didn't try to run out into the compound and I am very glad I didn't. Instead, I tried to shelter myself as much as I could inside my cabin, which was made of corrugated metal. But the rebels came so soon as they kicked the door in, and they dragged me outside.

They looted all my things—my shoes and watch, everything like that.

Friends Interahamwe incursions have been relatively small—30 or 40 people, not 150 heavily armed rebels. They had machine guns and two or three cars mounted on top, as well as hand grenades, knives, machetes and things. There were an awful lot of them and they had the cohesion, fire-power and determination to carry out what they wanted to do.

"They forced us to line up on the road, separated us and put us in different groups—

American, Canadian, British, Danish, New Zealanders—and they marched us into the jungle. We moved very slowly, constantly stopping and starting, because they were carrying fear of the rebels who had been wounded in the firefight. It was go, sit, down.

There was no rhyme or reason really to when the rebels chose to release some we picked to stay behind, and the six of us—away we went. But all six of us had a different nationality, which seemed pretty arbitrary. They gave us the letter for the Ugandan government. We all looked at it, but it was written in atrocious French. It wasn't very readable, even by the one person in our group who spoke French quite fluently.

It was very easy to find our way back because 100-plus rebels and the rest of us had walked up the trail—it was very beaten down. On the way back we met the Ugandan army near the eight tourists who had been slaughtered. We stopped back while the soldiers removed the bodies—there was no need for us to see them at that point.

I think all of us left extremely fortunate and grateful to walk out alive after what we had been through that day. It does frighten me that the rebels are still out there, but I will be returning to the same project I was working on because there is still a lot to be done.

In a firm belief that running away from things is not a good solution to anything, I



TROUBLE OVER LEBANON

Israeli warplanes attacked targets of suspected Hezbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon and growing calls for a negotiated end to the fighting. The attacks were to avenge Hezbollah's killing of a top Israeli general on Feb. 28. Prime Minister Ehud Barak rejected a call from Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon to postpone the May 17 elections so a national unity government could oversee a Lebanon withdrawal.

ANWAR'S ATTACKER

Malta's top police official was responsible for the pass bearing of sacked deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, according to testimony at a royal commission on the incident. Police Chief Abdul Rahim Nasr, who later resigned, admitted slapping Anwar, but two police officers said Nasr had the paid politician handcuffed and blockaded before severely beating him on the night of his arrest. Anwar, who appeared in court with bruises, was charged with corruption and was arrested after a falling out with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

CUBAN DISSIDENTS TRIED

Four prominent Cuban dissidents went on trial in Havana, charged with sedition. They were arrested in 1990 to disrupt a discussion criticizing Cuban economic policies. If convicted, they could get up to 15 years in prison. The government refused to allow foreign observers to witness the trial.

FAULDER EXECUTION SET

Texas authorities set June 17 as the new date for the execution of Canadian death-row inmate Stanley Faulder.

The 81-year-old former mechanic from Jesup, Alta., received a life-minus-temperary reprieve on Dec. 18 from a trial judge for a 1975 robbery-murder. Faulder's lawyer is still pursuing a court challenge.

BUSH STEPS CLOSER

Texas Gov. George W. Bush moved closer to declaring his candidacy for the U.S. presidency. While Bush, 58, stopped short of saying he will run for the Republican nomination, he formed a fund-raising committee for a possible campaign in which he is already seen as the favorite. Maxine, right-wing commentator Patrick Buchanan, 66, announced his candidacy—his third run for the presidency.

An uneasy path for Nigeria



Obasanjo celebrates victory; widespread voting irregularities

Staging a presidential vote in a country whose 110 million people had grown accustomed to military dictatorship was already a task riddled with logistical problems. The greatest challenge to the leaders of Nigeria's historic Feb. 27 election was how to transport the costs needed to buy votes. The largest bank note, 500 naira, is worth only about 80 cents. In the days leading up to the election, huge trucks packed with cash clogged the treacherous roads of the far north and the tropical south. In the dense forest village of Uwem, despite the troubled heart of the oil-rich delta region, agents from the People's Democratic Party visited the week of the vote, offering 200 naira to anyone willing to vote for the "suckers," symbol of the PDP.

The PDP candidate, former military ruler Olusegun Obasanjo, had the backing of Nigeria's wealthy elites. He spent billions of naira, and—no surprise—won a landslide. Voting irregularities were widespread, and ballot-box stuffing was especially common. Obasanjo's only real, former finance minister Obi Falase, called the election a "farce." Foreign

by the military establishment in the north. His critics dismiss him as an army stooge, but his supporters argue that he is the only person who can keep the military in check. Even so, there are troubling signs that some military men are scheming to cling to power, especially those who have yet to cash themselves. "There is a strong possibility of another coup first by gun or officers," says one Western diplomat.

Obasanjo's political dilemma galts in comparison with his economic woes. Nigeria's infrastructure is in ruins, telephones work fitfully, electricity is spotty. Obasanjo has promised to rebuild the economy but has not said how he intends to finance improvements in sectors such as education and health care. But more foreign help may come: Canada has ended most of its punitive financial制裁 it imposed after the 1995 execution of writer activist Ras Ibraheem Wani, and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy says he expects the Commonwealth to end Nigeria's 1995 suspension later this year.

STEPHAN LOWYKIN for *Time*

Italy's gun law By G. B. Proietti

Rising to 17.68 Proietti last last for law. The court of Camp Lazzaro, N.C., accepted defense arguments claiming the instant an assault rifle and a gun a charge of obstruction justice over the disappearance of a dead dog co-pilot in the accident. Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema promised to try to pursue Ashby further in court. Meeting D'Alema, U.S. President Bill Clinton pledged to review safety measures.

Bill Gates BESIEGED

BY ROSS LAVIER

He built it,

and they came. They came by the thousands last week, a ragtag army of anti-Microsoft computer geeks in sandals and T-shirts, streaming into the San Jose Convention Center in California's Silicon Valley to honour the 38-year-old founder from Heilsberg who might just be the one to oustre Bill Gates. Linus Torvalds, the Finnish anti-Gates who gave birth to the Linux operating system, was wading with his wife, Tove, and a double stroller carrying their two infant girls, the very picture of domesticity with a diaper bag slung over his shoulder, the way other programmers haul around laptops. But when he waded in to the stage to deliver his keynote address, the geeks hollered him as their leader, erupting into cheers and prolonged applause. "Calm down," an obviously embarrassed Torvalds said, and the crowd obediently fell silent. Afterward, they mobbed him for his

autograph, grown men behaving like adolescent groupies at a rock concert.

Who is Linus Torvalds, and why has he become a high-tech hero? He may not be well-known outside the computer industry, but in places like the Silicon Valley Torvalds' name inspires awe and respect in equal measure, and for one very good reason. Linux, the operating system he invented as a 21-year-old university student in Finland, has in recent months emerged as a potential threat to Windows, the product that has made Microsoft Corp. of Redmond, Wash., the world's most lucrative and company by market capitalization. And nothing, but nothing, would delight the founders of Silicon Valley more than to see mighty Microsoft brought down to size. To them, Gates is the Devil's Doctor, a dangerous and malicious who must be stopped before he and his \$204-billion company achieve total world domination



An upstart geek and an antitrust case present real threats to Microsoft's software empire

It's still a long shot, but two recent developments have created the odds that Torvalds and other enemies of Microsoft will get their wish. One is the growing popularity of Linux (rhymes with cynic), a so-called open-source program that can be downloaded for free from the Internet. For years, it was a flimsy operating system used mainly by software libertarians, but in the past few months Linux has won endorsements from more of the biggest names in computing. Microsoft competitor IBM Corp. jumped on the bandwagon last month, joining other digital heavyweights such as Intel Corp., Oracle Corp., Sun Microsystems Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co., Silicon Graphics Inc., Compaq Computer Corp., and Dell Computer Corp. "The end is nigh for the Windows era," one cleaver-sounding Mark Levin declared in San Jose last week at LinuxWorld, the first major conference and exposition for the upstart operating system. "We're moving to an

computer industry in the earlier case did on telecommunications page 36. The two attacks are unrelated but complementary. Microsoft's opponents are hoping the antitrust suit will allow the software behemoth's momentum long enough to give Linux a chance to make some inroads in the Windows empire. To some people, that outcome might seem conceivable. Although Microsoft's share price has dipped recently—it closed last week at \$325 (U.S.), \$21 off its all-time high—the company's profits continue to increase, up 70 per cent in the three months that ended on Dec. 31 to \$1.04 billion. Microsoft's control over computing is by most measures stronger now than ever before in the company's 24-year history. As many as 85 per cent of the world's 200 million personal computers run on Microsoft products; from the moment they are switched on, a level of dependence achieved by few companies in any major industry; let alone in a sector so vital to the new economy. And with cash reserves of \$29 billion, the Redmond giant has the ability to buy up potential competitors before they can become a threat.

That strategy cannot be used to stop Linux—because to use company assets or control it. But Microsoft executives have another weapon in their arsenal. Linux, for the moment, is far less user friendly than Windows. Ed Math, Microsoft's group product manager, acknowledges Linux as a competitor, but dismisses the prospect of the system's widespread use. "There are fewer applications available for Linux," Math said in a recent interview. "There's no long-term development road map, and there's a higher technical risk in using it."

Still, Microsoft's aura of invincibility could be diverging. Certainly no one knows better than Gates how easily technology companies can lose their footing. When Gates, then 30, and his childhood friend Paul Allen founded Microsoft in 1975, the computer industry was firmly in the grip of IBM—"Big Blue," one of the world's most successful and admired companies, so powerful that over 15 U.S. antitrust lawsuits fought in court to break it up. The federal government eventually gave up that antitrust battle, but Big Blue was caught off guard by the revolution in personal computing during the 1980s and lost its market dominance. The new leader was Gates, who recognized long before the established greats of the computer industry that PC software, not hardware, was where the big money would be made.

The question is: will Microsoft meet out the next big technological wave? Four years ago, the company was up late to the amassing popularity of the Internet, the phenomenon that has driven most of the latest trends in computing, from electronic commerce to the demand for "infrared appliances," shrink-wrapped machines designed specifically to exchange e-mail and shop online. Microsoft has since caught up to its competitors, but only by spending hundreds of millions of dollars on research and development—and, the U.S. justice department charged in its antitrust suit, by unfairly targeting rival companies such as Netscape

PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD



Torvalds with the Linux experts' enhancements are rolling in for the operating system created by the Finnish anti-Gates

Comments: John Grop, And strategies to defend his IP against that accusation, Microsoft has to hope that it doesn't get addressed by another law firm, the open-source movement represented by Linus Torvalds and Linux.

The reason Linux threatens Microsoft's hegemony is that it directly challenges the way most of today's software is developed and marketed. In the early days of the PC in the 1980s, computer hobbyists—many of them university students—tried to write much of their own software and pass around copies of popular programs without paying for them. It was Gates' move that anyone who dared to end the practice, penning a scathing "Open letter to hobbyists" in 1976 in which he accused company enthusiasts of stealing his new company's intellectual property. "The fact is, our leaders as has invested a lot of money in hobby software," the Microsoft founder wrote. Those who used such programs without paying for them, he added, "give hobbyists a bad name, and should be kicked out of any clubmanship they show up at."

The letter provided an angry backlash from amateur computer users, many of whom believed software belonged in the public domain. But within a few years, Gates's profit-oriented approach to software development had become the rule rather than the exception. In 1984, a handful of activists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, led by an offbeat hacker named Richard Stallman, created the nonprofit Free Software Foundation to promote the use of non-proprietary programs. Few people outside the academic community, however, took the foundation seriously. Why write applications for free when businesses such as Gates were growing and lucrative a popular program could be? Across North America, programmers and budding entrepreneurs dedicated about creating



Torvalds and autograph hounds at LinuxWorld: grown men behaving like teenage girls

their own "killer apps"—then sitting back while the money poured in.

One person who did not share that vision was Linux (pronounced Lee-aux) Torvalds. Named after the scientist Linus Pauling and the character from the comic strip *Peanuts*, Torvalds has been programming computers since his grandfather lent him a Commodore VIC-20 when he was 10 years old. He bought his first PC in 1989 but soon after he enrolled in a programming course at the University of Helsinki to learn about Unix, an operating system created by AT&T in 1969 and still widely used by universities and corporations for industrial-strength computing. Like virtually every other PC in those days, Torvalds' machine and Microsoft's MS-DOS operating system, the precursor to Windows. Torvalds decided that Gates's software wasn't up to his requirements, so as an experiment he decided to try writing a version of Unix that could run on the PC. He quickly discovered that many other people shared the same goal

Linux's Torvalds operates in a so-called intellectual bazaar, where ideas are shared and hackers compete to find solutions

In fact, Stallman and other members of the Free Software Foundation had already created most of the basic components of a free, Unix-like operating system. The main missing missing was the "kernel," the chunk of code that connects all the other pieces of software and performs much of the real program work.

By the summer of 1991, Torvalds had written his own kernel, which he called Linux. Hoping to get some feedback from fellow programmers, he posted a copy of his creation on the University of Helsinki's Internet server. Almost immediately, people began to download with gusto, which Torvalds dutifully incorporated into the operating system. As months passed, the community of Linux users expanded from a handful of people to 20 to several hundred. And as more hackers contributed ideas, Torvalds' operating system grew more powerful and gained additional features. (It all happened so gradually, Torvalds, who now lives and works in Santa Clara, Calif., north-west of San Jose, recently told *Time* Magazine, a new monthly: "The only point where I had a 'aha' was early 1992, when it went from me knowing five other people who use Linux occasionally to suddenly maybe 300 people who used it often. Suddenly, I did at least all the people that used it."

Early on, Torvalds made two decisions that were to prove critical to Linux's future popularity: instead of trying to write all of the pieces of the operating system by himself, he kept releasing the kernel to take advantage of progress that had already been created by Stallman and his group. (Today, there are

thousands of programs capable of running on Linux, including word processors, spreadsheets, Internet browsers and a wide variety of games.) In addition, he decided to distribute his work for free under a license option devised by the Free Software Foundation. Known as the "General Public License" or "GPL," the license allows users to duplicate, alter, redistribute and even sell the software as long as those download to copy and modify it passed along to all subsequent users. Developers who make changes to such programs are also required to make their source code, the guts of any program, freely available. Thus the term "open-source software," intended to distinguish GPL programs from commercial software.

Another factor that drove interest in Linux was the increasing popularity of the Internet, which made it easy for software developers around the world to exchange and work collaboratively on projects. Created in the 1960s on a series of linking universities and defense research establishments, the Internet itself is a product of open standards and shared resources. Much of the software that makes the Internet work was developed under an open-source model, including Sendmail, the application responsible for directing email to its destination. "The Internet would not have functioned if it wasn't for open-source software," says Tim O'Reilly, an influential Linux activist who lives in Mill Valley, Calif.

A simplified "no-patent liberarian"

A Canadian hat in the ring

In his 23-year business career, Bill Young has made only two big mistakes. The first was the time he allowed his Toronto-based computer rental business to be swallowed up by a larger company, only to discover that he hated working for someone else. The second was his reaction in 1992 when several of his customers introduced him to the Linux operating system, a huge patchwork of computer code that is freely available on the Internet. "It was the most bizarre thing I'd ever heard," Young recalls. "I asked these guys where Linux came from and they'd say things like, 'It's from engineers according to their skills, to engineers according to their needs.'"

The bizarre physiology was enough to convince Young that Linux was, in commercial terms, a lost cause. "I knew that human activities don't replicate themselves unless there's a strong economic model, so I was one of the skeptics. I figured there wasn't a chance in 100 this thing would take off."

Like a lot of one-time skeptics, Young has since changed his mind. Instead of watching away, Linux has become the com-

nized in an estimated \$30 million by selling Red Hat-branded versions of Linux, a product that can be copyrighted and which rarely hefty fees. With 400,000 copies shipped in 1998, Red Hat Linux is the most widely used version of Linux, and more than twice as popular as its strongest rival.

If Young were just another quirky investing type, his success might be easier to comprehend. But "aggressive" is not an adjective that suits this lanky 45-year-old native of Hamilton, Chevy and self-taught. Young comes across like an energetic boy scout, slightly gawky with his horn-rimmed glasses and company-tied leather. He considers himself first and foremost a salesman, but acknowledges that the label may leave a misleading impression. "There are salesmen who are very aggressive and convince you to buy things you don't need, and there are others who are completely ineffective unless they're selling something they truly believe in. I can be very evangelical when I get on a mission—when I know what I'm selling is better than the alternative."

One reason Young is effective as a Linux evangelist is that his background abhors the often-contradictory cultures of business and software development

LEADING THE CHARGE
Red Hat Software Inc. distributes the most popular of the simplified versions of the Linux computer operating system. The online magazine *LinuxWorld* recently polled 850 readers to find that Red Hat had assumed a commanding lead over its software competition. The usage breakdown:

Debbie Goldfarb

Name: Debbie Goldfarb

Score: 541

8 total

Rate: 4.1

(Source: LinuxWorld)

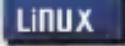
74%

Red Hat

Young and his Red Hat software: the making of a Linux true believer

He majored in history at the University of Toronto in the mid-1970s, but signed up for two programming courses and spent many nights in the computer lab in the basement of Sidney Smith Hall. "I was there with all the other dorks, fiddling my punch cards into those big machines." After graduating in 1978, Young went to work for an established leasing company that was passed by distant relatives, eventually persuading the firm to establish a computer rentals division with him as its head. That lasted until 1984, when Young started his own rental agency with some outside investors. He sold that company in 1990 and spent two years working for the new owners at New York City before striking out on his own.

While in New York, Young joined a software user group as a means of making business contacts. His contribution to the club was to edit a newsletter for users of Unix, a commercial operating system pos-



ular in the academic and corporate worlds. To Young's surprise, his readers were soon showering him with requests for articles about Linux, a then little-known Unix variant. "Young assumed it was a passing fad. But the interest in Linux continued to increase, so he started us with a former IBM software engineer named Craig Evans and launched Red Hat in early 1993. Their plan was to ride the Linux wave by assembling the various components of Linux, adding a word processor and several other programs, and distributing the package on CD-ROM for about \$75 a copy. Young knows that many of his customers make copies of the software and share it with their friends, but that doesn't bother him at the least. The company hopes, in future to make most of its money by selling support and service to Linux users, so the more people who use the product the better."

So far, the approach is working.

From an initial payroll of four employees, Red Hat has grown to a staff of 10. In September, Intel Corp. and Nortel Networks Communications Corp. simultaneously purchased minority stakes in Red Hat, an event that legitimized the firm in the eyes of many corporate executives. Last month, IBM and Dell lent their support by implementing plans to ship high-performance computers loaded with Red Hat Linux.

Many CEOs in Young's position would now be rushing to cash in by selling shares to the public, but that is not one of his priorities. Belying the get-rich-quick mentality that pervades the high-tech sector, Young lives with his wife, Nancy, and three daughters in a "Victorian three-bedroom house in the 'burbs" of Raleigh. Apart from leading the club was to edit a newsletter for users of Unix, a commercial operating system pos-

ition

who has been known to show up at Linux events dressed as Obi-Wan Kenobi. From Steve Jobs—"Use the source, Luke"—to one of his favorite expressions—Raymond is "one of the court jester and m-burnt philosopher of the Linux community." (Linux is our god, and Eric is our prophet," one programmer joked during a break in the proceedings at Linux World last week.) In 1997, Raymond wrote an online essay, "The cathedral and the bazaar," that has become the manifesto of the open-source movement. In it, he argues that open-source software is superior to proprietary code not just because it's free, but because it is constantly being subjected to peer review by thousands of independent developers. The result, he says, is software that is less buggy than commercial programs. In Raymond's analogy, companies such as Microsoft are cathedrals, monolithic organizations that jealously guard their secrets and, as a result, are slow to respond to changes in technology. Open-source development, by contrast, is a kind of intellectual bazaar, in which ideas are shared and programmers compete to see who can come up with the neatest, most efficient solution to a problem.

Raymond's essay has had a profound impact on the software industry. In January of last year, Netscape, which had been waging a losing battle against Microsoft in the market for Internet software, announced that it would release the source code for Netscape Navigator 3.0, a program used to browse the World Wide Web. Company executives, who clearly hoped the move would spur interest in their software among hacker enthusiasts and lead to future innovations, explained later that their decision had been influenced by Raymond's paper. Since then, a number of other technology companies, including Canada's Celerity, a provider of graphics and office software, have announced that they, too, will make some of their source code public.

In Silicon Valley, it's hard to find any major computer company that isn't in some fashion embracing the potential impact of Linux on its business. "Right now we're trying to figure out what it means to us," says John McFarlane, an Ontario native who runs the Soma software division at giant San Francisco-based Maritz Park, Calif. Like many of its peers, San recently announced plans to configure some of its hardware systems so they can run Linux. San, in fact, was one of the earliest exhibitors at LinuxWorld. Richard Stoltman was there, urging fellow hackers not to climb into bed with big business, but most in attendance expressed delight at the strong support from mainstream companies. "This is the coming-of-age party for Linux," the sweet 16, said Jim Hall, whose tattered beard and biker-clad look has become as a Company engineer and an executive director of Linux International, an association of Linux users. In his speech opening the convention, Hall urged the business community to embrace Linux and rallied his fellow users by quoting Mahatma Gandhi: "First we dream, then we plan, then they laugh at us, then they hate us, then we win."

Hall hardly expected to see who "they" were—all 20,000 people in the audience knew without being told that he was referring to Microsoft. Hostility towards the Redmond giant was a recurring theme of the convention. One exhibitor passed out free T-shirts with the word "Microsoft" written in the style of the company's logo. At a party on Tuesday night, the main

entertainment was a Bill Gates impersonator who insisted that Linux was a top-secret Microsoft creation that had gotten out of control. But Microsoft's Mark threw cold water on such anti-Gates revelry by noting that "some people say positive things about Linux when their mega-size is anti-Microsoft."

Exactly what the real Bill Gates thinks about Linux is unclear. Last fall, a leaked company memo warned that Linux poses a "direct, short-term revenue threat to Microsoft," and that open-source software could eventually replace many proprietary programs. "Linux and other OSS advocates are making a progressively more credible argument that OSS software is at least as robust—if not more—than commercial alternatives," said the memo, written by Microsoft engineer Venkat Venkatesh. (Linux supporters call it "the Hellcown document," because that was the day it appeared on the Internet.) Without going as far as that memo, Gates told a German computer magazine last month that he sees Linux as one of several "serious competitors" in his company—along with, among others, Sun's Java operating system and the software used in handheld Palm computers from Micra Corp. of Santa Clara, Calif.

Still, some Linux faithful are convinced that both the press and the Gates interview were part of a Microsoft campaign to deflect criticism that the company enjoys a monopoly by playing up the competition to Windows. "The memo was just too good to be true," says Bob Young, the Canadian CEO of Red Hat Software Inc. of Raleigh, N.C., the leading distributor of Linux on CD-ROM. "Microsoft might be secretive, they might do evil things, but they're not a highly effective organization." The fallowess distribution has set up in their judgment, many analysts. Young's view is that Linux will have a tough time超越 Windows as long as PCs—rather than handheld devices, Microsoft phones and other new electronic gizmos—remain the most common platform for computing.

Judging by Microsoft's recent efforts to extend the Windows franchise to handheld computers and other devices, the company

seems to agree. The use of Linux on corporate networks may be increasing, but Microsoft's Windows NT Server product is still the world leader in that category. A survey by international Data Corp. of Framingham, Mass., found Windows NT accounted for 36 per cent of network server installations last year, followed by Novell Netware at 24 per cent with Linux and Unix at 17 per cent each.

"Our sales are strong and our customers' satisfaction is definitely very good," says Erik Mall, marketing manager for Windows NT Server at Microsoft Canada in Mississauga, Ont. An August Red Survey found that 800 mid-sized Canadian companies last fall found that about 46 per cent used Windows NT, while 34 per cent used Novell and 14 per cent used some form of Unix.

Hoping to strengthen its lead in the corporate server market, Microsoft plans to roll out a new and more robust version of Windows NT, Windows 2000, later this year. Its chief engineer, Bruce Falstein, jokingly calls it "The most important project in the history of this kind." The product, however, is now years behind schedule and reportedly mired with bugs, leaving there is every likelihood that it will not appear before the company launches its next major software trial in Washington.

Microsoft has not fared well so far in this battle. Court observers, and many of Microsoft's own supporters, say the company and its lawyers have miscalculated key aspects of the case, giving the government's lead trial counsel, David Boies, the upper hand. The trial got off to a bad start for the company last October when Boies, who represented IBM in a similar case two decades ago, aired a videotaped deposition of Gates. Under questioning, Gates appeared unconvincing and evasive, eliciting not a recall of pivotal meetings about which he later sent or received e-mail messages, and quibbling with prosecutors over the meaning of certain words such as "competition." I have no idea what you're talking about,

when you say 'ask,'" Gates said of one point in a Bill Clinton-like exchange with a government lawyer.

More recently, several of Microsoft's witnesses have looked sketchy under cross-examination, while executives of rival companies have taken the stand to accuse the company of bad tactics. In one of the most damaging exchanges, Microsoft senior vice-president James Allchin played a videotaped demonstration intended to show that Windows does not function properly when its Internet software is removed. Earlier, the government had contended that the Internet browser was not an essential component of the operating system and that the company had bundled it with Windows primarily as a means of undercutting Netscape. Allchin's tactic backfired when Boies pointed out that the tape had been edited, prompting the judge to say the tape was so flawed that it could do little for the defense.

On another occasion, Intel vice-president Steven McGlynn testified that his company had dropped its lawsuit against Microsoft over Microsoft's threat to make Windows incompatible with a new Intel chip. Similarly, an Apple Computer Inc. official said Microsoft pressured it to abandon most of its copyrighted software products, and an IBM executive accused Microsoft of discouraging independent software firms from writing programs that could run on Sun Microsystems' OS/2 operating system. "The world is finally seeing the real Microsoft," the Microsoft we've seen in Silicon Valley for many years," says Gary Reback, a lawyer in Palo Alto, Calif., who represents several of Microsoft's competitors and is an outspoken critic of the company.

The view from Redwood, not surprisingly, is different. "For the most part we feel good about the way the case has unfolded," says

Brad Smith, the company's general counsel for international law and corporate affairs. Smith, who has handled much of the trial so far and plans to return to Washington when testimony resumes in mid-April, adds that journalists covering the case have made too much of the instances in which U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson has rebuffed Microsoft's lawyers or displayed impatience with the company. "It's a risky business to game into a crystal ball based on a judge's comments in the course of a trial," Smith says. "We've achieved what we hoped to achieve, and I don't think there is any excuse in this trial of any harm to consumers. We feel good about that."

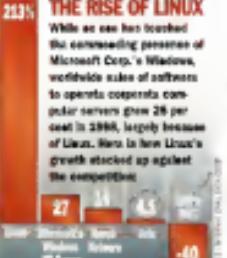
Perhaps the best thing about the current trial is that Microsoft's perspective is that it will almost certainly not represent the final word in the software debate. Even if Judge Jackson rules against Microsoft—and most analysts expect he will—the company has an automatic right of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals, which has previously issued judgments favoring Microsoft. Depending on the outcome at that level, either side could petition the Supreme Court for a final ruling. "We're probably looking at another one to two years," Smith says. In the meantime, he cautions, Microsoft's 25,000 employees will be working hard to maintain the company's competitive edge. "Everybody here knows that if we better keep improving our products or we won't be the industry leader when the decision in this case is finally rendered."

The dilemma Microsoft faces, of course, is that the longer the case drags on, the more opportunity its rivals will have to grab market share. Nowhere is the company's fiscal fate more ominously reflected than in its chairman's office. Two walls are an ode to Linux. To the left is a bust of Linus Torvalds and his programming office. To the right is a bust of Steve Jobs and his Apple headquarters. "Steve Jobs is an icon of Linux," Torvalds says with a smile. "He's a hero to us. He's a legend. He's a role model. He's a symbol of what's good about Linux."



The antitrust case got off to a bad start. In testimony on video, Gates could not recall pivotal meetings

Linux users demand refunds as Windows at a California rally. Below: Behind the scenes at the Washington trial, putting Microsoft on the defensive



OF EMPIRES BROKEN

When the U.S. justice department launched its epic antitrust case against Microsoft by playing a videotaped deposition of co-founder Bill Gates, it was inevitable that some comparisons would compare the software king's predilection to that of another famous Bill—the one who occupied the White House. To legal scholars, however, Microsoft's shadow more closely parallels an earlier antitrust case. In 1906, U.S. government lawyers filed suit against John D. Rockefeller, the legendary industrialist and founder of Standard Oil of New Jersey. Like Microsoft, Standard Oil was a ferocious competitor that controlled about 90 per cent of the oil produced in the United States. And like Gates, Rockefeller spurred widely differing reactions among Americans who bought his products. Some saw a visionary genius, while others discounted him as a bully whose obscene pursuit of profits had harmed consumers and competitors alike.

Microsoft can only hope its antitrust critics—the trial in Washington is rescheduled monthly—haven't read the same way Rockefeller did. Five years after the Standard Oil case began, the U.S. Supreme Court split the corporation into 34 smaller entities, among them the corporate ancestors of Exxon, Mobil, Chevron and Texaco. Late last year, Exxon and Mobil announced a merger which, if approved by regulators, will create the world's biggest oil company. The 2011 ruling embedded rules of big corporations and established a precedent that, almost one decade later, continues to shape U.S. antitrust law.

The Clinton administration has no idea whether it would seek a similar decree to break up Microsoft in the event that it prevails in the current fight. But government lawyers can, if they wish, point to several other cases in which that remedy was used. In 1881, the same year that Rockefeller lost his antitrust battle, the courts ruled up James and Benjamin Duke's American Tobacco Co., which controlled 95 per cent of the U.S. market for tobacco products. Two of the major companies to emerge from that case were R.J. Reynolds (now known now as the manufacturer of Camel cigarettes) and British American Tobacco PLC, which today owns 42 per cent of Marlboro-hand-rolleds Ltd. And in the early 1980s, the federal government broke up American Telephone & Telegraph Corp., allowing AT&T to keep its long-distance operations while forcing it to spin off seven regional phone companies. Many analysts credit that decision with damping down prices for telecommunications services and unleashing a wave of technological innovation.

The key legislation in each of these cases was the 1890 Sherman Antitrust Act, which makes it a crime to enter into business combinations that "substantially" lessen competition. The act gives the courts wide latitude to determine whether or not a monopoly is, in fact, illegal. Around the same time the Standard Oil case was coming to a head, Washington filed suit against United States Steel Co., which had been formed from 180 companies and, at its peak, supplied 89 per cent of the country's steel. In 1900, the Supreme Court found that U.S. Steel officials had met regularly with rivals who subsequently followed the company's lead on pricing, and the court ruled that those meetings did not constitute price fixing. More than two decades later, the courts threw out an antitrust case against Alcoa Inc. Co.



John D. Rockefeller Sr. (left) and John D. Rockefeller Jr. in 1913 (epic)

of America after finding that it had legally captured 90 per cent of the market using efficient production methods and lower prices.

Given those judgments and others, some experts have argued that the Sherman Act needs to be toughened. But the laws governing monopolies in the United States are still far stricter than in any other country. Canada's Competition Act is strong on paper, says Daniel Marais Béliveau of McGill University's Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries, but governments have shown little willingness to enforce it. "In the United States, people are naturally suspicious of large institutions, be they public or private, and that is reflected in a long history of antitrust enforcement," he says. In contrast, Canadian policies have favored "deregulation, that encouraged the creation of dominant companies that could stand up to foreign competition. As a result, says Béliveau, the federal Competition Bureau is 'toothless and basically ineffective.'

The question some U.S. antitrust experts are asking is whether the Sherman Act remains relevant in the era of the microchip, when technological shifts can endanger even the most successful high-tech companies. But even if Microsoft is found guilty, and even if the government and the courts shy away from imposing the ultimate penalty on Microsoft, the case could have profound implications. In 1982, the pro-business Reagan administration abandoned a 15-year antitrust case aimed at breaking up IBM. Big Blue won the battle, but ultimately it lost the war because, to avoid further offending the Justice Department, it had chosen not to acquire equity stakes in several key outside suppliers—including the West Coast startup that had been contracted to produce an operating system for IBM's first personal computer. That company, of course, was Microsoft. A decade later, Bill Gates' empire was bigger than IBM itself—and so powerful that it, too, eventually became a target of the trustbusters.

ROSS LEHR

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Deirdre McMurdy



The quest for coolness

One trend that defines business at the start of the 20th century is that multi-billion-dollar mergers and acquisitions have dramatically expanded the scope and the size of corporations. The corollary that "might makes right" in the global economy has reconfigured everything from traditional industrial sectors to knowledge-based technology firms.

There is a paradox. In spite of the emphasis on size, it has never been more important for companies—especially those in the consumer products sector—to appear small. The reason that many people are overwhelmed by the pace and impersonality of international business. Increasingly they crave products that are more uniquely tailored to their personal experience.

The challenge for consumer products companies and retailers is to latch onto the "cool" trend, without making this feel like a mass market experience. But coolness is notoriously difficult to define. Mary McNamee, director of fashion at Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnic University, says something is considered in vogue when it "reflects a prevailing societal mood." In fact, it is much easier to say what does not fit that description. And these days, "coolness" is definitely not cool.

To overcome that, a growing number of multinationals are paying top dollar to acquire small, niche ventures that give them access to a market segment that might otherwise ignore or skip their products. So far, this has meant busy times for Canadian-based companies on both sides of the equator.

The most recent example is Polo Ralph Lauren Corp.'s \$80-million acquisition of Toronto-based Club Monaco Inc. In this transaction, the fashion, fragrance and furnishings conglomerate gains access to a young, Euro-style market that has, until now, eluded its grasp. That same week, rival Eaton Corp. acquired Canada's ultra-luxury M.A.C. Cosmetics. In 1998, And last month, Montreal-based Seagram Corp. paid \$150 million to acquire the remaining 44 per cent of Del Jam records, an independent music label notorious for its retrograde repertoire.

But buying coolness can also be a tricky

proposition. The same synergies that are supposed to strengthen the smaller company can instead stifle it. As an effort to legitimize itself, Polo says it will merge Club Monaco as a distinct subsidiary. Even so, Club Monaco gains marketing muscle and broader distribution through its new parent. But if that is not managed carefully, it could lead to overexposure and a rapid loss of cache in the fickle youth market. "It's a delicate balance, a subtle nuance," says Ryerson's McNamee. "One tiny degree too far can become a negative."

That costly lesson has already been learned by Nike. The ubiquitous "swoosh" logo, the "Just do it" slogan, the bland endorsement deals with sports superstars, and reports that the company exploited child labour led to a canister busting. Nike lost its coolness as young people rejected its high-tech footwear. Another lesson is Levi Strauss & Co., which has lost its status as the blue jeans of choice, and is now laying off thousands of workers in a bid to mend the damage.

The quest for coolness is especially frustrating for department stores, which are struggling to reinvent themselves. The alliance of Eaton's or the Bay for older generations has been snuffed by time and competition. In an effort to woo a younger demographic, they have undertaken such measures as subdividing their fashion sections into a series of designer "boutiques."

Department stores have also attempted to update their offerings—often with unfortunate results. Does anyone remember Eaton's misguided campaign featuring controversial grunge fighter Ashley MacIsaac? The company probably hopes not. And the Bay, which has just acquired its second new president in two years, faced with the notion of changing its name to HBC, until a decision is made on a switch of direction from established customers.

Whatever the strategy, the pursuit of coolness remains a conundrum. What defines that elusive quality, much faster than large corporations can react. And by its very nature, once a mainstream multinational like Polo latches onto something like Club Monaco, it is almost over.

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The Nation's Business



Peter C. Newman

Illusion or reality, the Web leads the way

Not since Bre-X was Bay Street's darling and wild-eyed analysts aware on stacks of stock certificates that the company's Indonesian claims were solid gold prepared with gush! (instead of pure mud) is gold with gold has ever been a stock market mania like this.

This week, a syndicate of four brokerage houses—Yorkton Securities Inc., CIBC World Capital Securities Inc., Merrill Lynch Capital Inc., and RBC Dominion Securities Inc.—is sponsoring a \$40-million stock issue for Vixen Technologies Inc., Vixen Technologies, which also acts as an institutional brokerage firm, has been one of the most eagerly anticipated initial public offerings (IPOS) in Canadian history, and could be the most profitable for those investors fortunate enough to grab some shares at today's trading levels. The fledgling Toronto-based company has one main asset: an exclusive license for Canada from ETrade Group Inc. of Palo Alto, Calif., which went public in 1996 as a top-\$300-million (U.S.)—online electronic brokerage service. During 1998, its stock price has risen from \$8 and \$88, as its market capitalization has reached as much as \$2.6 billion.

One of this country's largest companies, BCE Inc., joined the e-commerce game in earnest last summer when it folded Insignia Media Corp. into the newly established BCE E-commerce Inc. The new firm has more than quadrupled its market valuation since. Another mega-successful high-tech issue that closed last week was Gerry Schwartz's offering of eight million shares

All this is happening against a background of unprecedented strength of Canadian oil retail, among oil companies. (Retail sales were up at \$34.50 only 18 months ago.) One-time Canadian oil refiners, the T. Eaton Co. Ltd. and Calgary's Imperial Oil Ltd. are headed for the cellar, already whacked by high flyers as Investor Inc., Philip Morris Company Inc., and the Louren Group Inc., the financial market has reached a stage of solvency under fire.

More recently, values of Internet stocks, especially on the U.S. market, are selling records unbroken by any other industry. When stock analysis has pointed out, when radio was introduced in Wall Street in 1922, it took several decades to build up a listener base large enough to make its stocks worthwhile investments. Televisions developed in the late 1960s, required 15 years to reach a similar level of popularity. The Internet has been a factor for nearly the present, yet it has already dramatically increased the stock market's preeminence. On Wall Street, 13 best performing IPOs of all

one, 14 are Internet- or networking-related. The biggest fine-day-was-electronic gateway The globe.com's 600-plus-member increase \$83.50 from its issue price of \$8 last December Yahoo's site, one the more popular Internet portals, has gone straight up, reaching market valuation of \$31.6 billion. Though its total 1998 revenues were only \$500 million. That means it's trading at 150 times sales.

In Canada, the leading trader by value for the first quarter of this year has been Red Corp, which was issued at \$1.35 a share in November, 1998. During its first 100 trading days, the stock looked to \$9.50.

The expansion for all this crosses in that it's no longer the wedge-shaped stocks that dominate the market. They were the few and the best in their categories. Now, there's been a new term—*bleeding-edge*—which applies to companies and stocks that are way ahead of the pack. The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has predicted that within the next 6 months at least 25 per cent of global retail sales will be transacted using the Internet. Most experts who have been looking at forecasts are convinced that it is far from a fad or a passing craze. They believe that as much as half of everything we buy and sell will eventually move over the Internet.

The problem with the astronomical prices being paid by investors is that they are becoming part of the Internet revolution in that there is nothing comparable to judge them against. The Hispanic willfulness of today's stock market reflect neither present earnings nor future prospects, but the massive nature of the investment. If the company with the best actual value has no place in those financial equations, investors want to be part of the Internet play no matter what the price. Once again, in a company at such levels that are totally disconnected from their values according to any sane measure, stocks are simply worth what they trade for. That is significant in all this is that capital markets, no matter how far they may have come, still indicate the direction in which economies are heading. Oldfangled and institutional investors may be under water, but the stock market has never reached similar heights. Smart investors won't try to fight this overwhelmingly positive trend. There is no point pretending that Canada can somehow be a part of the industry that will dominate the new millennium.

The Internet, which is still growing at 18 per cent a month and will have one billion Web sites by year's end, will be the dominant reality at the 21st century. On, and by the way, it will be Quebec separatists' agent of destruction. A medium that uses mostly English as its international language, with most of its futuristic programs available only in English, will burn the fires of Quebec nationalism.

Now, there's a good reason to pour more money into Internet stocks, no matter how high they go.

The Himalayan multiples of today's Internet-related stocks reflect neither present earnings nor future prospects

Bytes of gibberish

The victory of IBM's Deep Blue computer two years ago in a chess match with Garry Kasparov, a Russian grand master of the game, raised fears that machines are about ready to push humans aside. But for all those who have watched too many reruns of 2001: A Space Odyssey, Elliott MacKieffitch can offer some hope. As co-supervisor of the computational linguistics laboratory at the University of Montreal, MacKieffitch is an expert in what appears to be the weak link of computer intelligence—language. Our language, not theirs.

Turn out our silicon threads are easily confused by the way humans speak and write (is the word starting this sentence a verb or a plural noun?). That confusion, MacKieffitch explains, makes it unlikely that computers will soon be able to handle—without any human help—the job of eliminating the language barriers of the global village. Translators, he believes, have a secure future. "For high-quality, polished text, we just won't be able to dispense with them for some time."

Yet computers are used widely in translation. Free software is available on the World Wide Web that can translate entire Web pages or short text passages on the fly. Environment Canada uses computers to translate all its website bulletins and—because of the limited subject matter—they perform very well, MacKieffitch says. They also play a big role at the European Commission, the bureaucracy for the 12-language European Union. So it's not that computers are invisible; it's just that, so far, they are not very good at the task.

Linguists working with programmers have yet to master the complexity of the translation art, MacKieffitch says. He uses the following sentence as an example: "The glass fell on the table and it broke." Humans will know the "it" refers to the glass because tables are harder to break, but computers will not. "All the machine has is access to the words," says MacKieffitch. "But you need more than words to translate correctly. You need background knowledge, common sense



and culture. Machines have none of that."

These failings are the reason the federal government still uses humans to translate some 300 million words a year, says Gilles Martel, director of the parliamentary translation and interpretation service. "We tried a few systems and concluded that they didn't fit our purposes," says Martel, who was also speaking for the government's translation bureau. The automated systems produced drafts that had to be revised so heavily that expected savings disappeared.



THE DICTIONARY DISGUISED AS A PEN

Human translators have access to huge dictionaries and databases. Many of them custom-build. The rest of us make do with much smaller dictionaries. Now, an Israeli company has developed a hand-held computer shaped like a pen—a big 90-g pen—that promises to make personal translators a little easier. QuickKeyway combines a hand-held scanner with character recognition software and language databases. The model tested by MacKieffitch handled French and English accurately and quickly. But it takes so much time to learn how to use the scanner that QuickKeyway now comes with an instructional video. QuickKeyway, based in Israel, has sold 2,500 QuickKeyways, which costs \$250. Still, QuickKeyway handles only a word at a time and is really a dictionary, not a translation device. It also cannot help the tourist trying to decipher a French street sign. For some things, paper dictionaries still work best.

General Motors of Canada Ltd. has also tried computer translation, but "there were enough problems that it didn't really work out," says spokesman Tony Laffosse.

The European Commission makes great use of translation software because of the overwhelming nature of its task. Each official document must be converted into all 12 of its languages. How many Greek-to-Portuguese translators are there? The problem of Canada's Two Solitudes pales in comparison. MacKieffitch says translation consumes a significant percentage of the commission's budget.

Revising computer-generated translations can be heavy slogging. MacKieffitch says, "Machines make mistakes that no translator makes and often spit out gibberish." An example is cited in one of his papers: the French phrase *maison de ville* (blockhouse) comes out in English as "presumably of brick" because the computer thought *maison* was the plural of *maison*, which means a mall or shopping promenade. Translation strengths can also be made on the Web site of the French-owned Systech Software Inc. Here the English expression "tire files" translates literally into French—and no longer makes sense.

Almost from the time there were computers, there were attempts to turn them into translators. So far, despite huge investment and effort, MacKieffitch says they can't properly convert a single page of ordinary text from one language into another without human help. But the dream of an escape from the human translator is too strong. "If only it worked, we'd be so happy," he says. Even if it meant we could no longer feel so smart.

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Profile

BY BRIAN BERGMAN

Roman Catholic Bishop Frederick Henry heard the call of God from a very early age. His mother, Nancie, can recall a three-year-old Frederick sitting near the front of the church in London, Ont., and pointing to the priest. "When I grow up," he told his parents, "I'm going to be one of those guys." Later, as a 16-year-old, Henry could be found in his bedroom, pretending to administer the eucharist to his four younger siblings. That sense of mission has never left the now 55-year-old Henry, who in March 19, will mark his first anniversary as bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Calgary. Is a controversial—and sometimes contentious—inaugural year, Henry has tangled repeatedly with Alberta Premier Ralph Klein over the morality of government-sanctioned gambling, wedged publicly into the divisive debate over homosexual rights and spoken out eloquently on behalf of the disadvantaged. "As a bishop," he says, "I've often thought my voice is to be used for the marginalized, the voiceless, those who have no political voice in this society."

Henry's candid ways have been applauded by many members of the Catholic laity for faithfully applying the gospel message to contemporary social issues—and condemned by his critics for recklessly mixing politics with religion. "I've very pleased with the positions he's taken," says Dennis Costello, a retired Calgary parochial priest and state deputy of the Catholic

men's service club Knights of Columbus. "He speaks straight from his convictions, which are based on the values Christianity espouses." A much less laudatory view comes from Eddie Sison, owner of Calgary's Silver Dollar Casino, who squared off against the bishop during last fall's plebiscite on whether or not to rid the city of video-lottery terminals. Among other things, Sison is upset that the Ontario-born-and-raised Henry

Calgary's Henry mixes local politics with religion

wasted so much time lecturing Albertans on how to behave. "As soon as he got off the plane, he started attacking and denouncing VLTs," says Sison. "He didn't even have his feet set in town and already he was trying to set the rules."

It's this area that Henry's baptism by fire on the gambling issue literally began as he landed at the Calgary International Airport last March and was confronted by curious reporters. Church and community leaders had been pressuring the Alberta government to outlaw VLTs, arguing that the machines don't provide a social return and create havoc on family life. As Henry was the new leader of the 310,000-member Calgary diocese, which encompasses most of southern Alberta, the media wanted to know where he stood on the matter. Typically, he didn't mangle words and made them, he said, "the better

wasted an hour in lecturing Albertans on how to behave."As soon as he got off the plane, he started attacking and denouncing VLTs," says Sison. "He didn't even have his feet set in town and already he was trying to set the rules."

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off society is going to be."

Henry soon became swept up in the anti-VLT crusade, which culminated last Oct. 19 in municipal plebiscites in 58 Alberta communities. The campaign became quite heated, with much of the anger focused on the Klein government, which gambling opponents claim has become addicted to the more than \$500 million that VLTs pour into provincial coffers each year. When, just three weeks before the plebiscite date, Calgary's marginally appointed lottery board announced that it was setting aside \$3 million in provincial VLT revenues for community projects—including \$3 million for the homeless, Henry cried foul. He accused Klein of wagging "a very blatant stick to try to save."

Klein rejected the charge, stating that the lottery board's "members were composed of 'ordinary citizens' who made their decisions entirely at the local level."

In the end, all but eight small municipalities voted to retain the VLTs. In almost all cases, the margin of victory was slim. In Calgary, for example, 56 per cent voted to keep the gambling machines while 45 per cent favoured scrapping them. In January, Henry and other church leaders urged Klein to officially ban VLTs from Alberta. In a recent interview with *Maclean's*, the premier said that he did so to avoid causing the "division" within the people.

Klein added that, in government's opinion, gambling has a behind-the-scenes such as education, health care and the economy as a priority for voters. "Bishop Henry happens to see this as one of the areas of society and that's his priority," says Klein. "I can understand him for his honesty, but I don't share with him."

Told of Klein's remarks, Henry leaned back in his office chair and placed his hands behind his head. "I think the premier knows he has a problem," he says with a smile. "A solid 80-per-cent negative vote—which has Ralph Klein ever had that on any issue?" Warning in his subject, Henry adds: "I would hope eventually we're going to find a few more statements, rather than politicians who always run government by polls and testing the waters."

While the anti-VLT campaign consumed much of the bishop's time and energies, Henry has managed to become embroiled in several other contentious matters. Last April, when the Supreme Court of Canada directed the Alberta government to include protection for gays and lesbians in the Alberta Individual Rights Protection Act, Klein faced strong pressure from within his

church to rescind the federal Charter of Rights notwithstanding clause to voidly the court ruling. In an open letter published in the *Calgary Herald*, Henry argued for a more measured response.

Henry wrote that there has been far too much discrimination against gays and lesbians. At the same time, he reiterated traditional Catholic dogma, stating that sexual relations must occur within a marriage between a man and a woman who are open to procreation—and that homosexual behaviour is therefore "morally unacceptable." Henry said the province should agree to protect homosexuals in areas such as employment and housing, but logically guard against further legitimizing their lifestyle. Through measures such as spousal or adoption benefits for same-sex couples. That is precisely the approach adopted by the Klein government, which is currently looking at ways it can adhere to the Supreme Court ruling without extending full equality rights to gays and lesbians.

Even before he arrived in Alberta, Henry was no stranger to controversy. During stops as a bishop in Windsor and later in Thunder Bay, he crossed swords with Ontario Premier Mike Harris over cuts to social services. In one private meeting, Henry told the premier his policies were "heartless." In fact, the bishop credits Harris with politicizing him. "The tax cuts he proposed were being done on the backs of the poor," he says. "It made me angry and radicalized me."

In addition to his strong convictions, Henry is known among friends and colleagues for his sense of humor, his love of sports—and, above all, his human touch. While still a seminary student, Henry worked at a number of summer jobs, including at a brewery, a barrel manufacturer and a tennis mill. As a result, he says, "I've always had a great respect for work and the workers." After a few years in parish work, he embarked on a 12-year teaching career at St. Peter's Seminary in London. If he has one regret since first being ordained, it's that he has only one regret since first being ordained: a furlough in 1986, as he was leaving the leadership of the classroom. "You know where students were at when they came in and you know where they are at the end," he says. "There are few things that give you a high like that."

Well, in Henry's case, there is at least one secular activity that provides a similar rush: "I love to golf," he says. Henry, who first learned to play at age 12 while working as a caddy, speaks of the sport with the fervor of a true atheist. "It's like a moment of sanity in a crazy world," he enthuses. "And when you hit the shot the way you wanted to—it's an amazing feeling." Then comes a confession: "I will admit that, on occasion, I'll get that ball down on the tee, and look at it and think of a person who may be giving me a hard time. When I whack the ball out of it, it doesn't care anything, and I feel so much better getting off my aggression out."

On the links or off, Calgary's fighting bishop is no body's patsy.

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Media

The perils of CBC

Labour strife threatens the future of the corporation

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

This just in, coming up on the news, even though his unscripted by a number of 20 per cent last week in favour of a strike, don't look for Peter Mansbridge, on a slot he may time soon. It's not that Mansbridge, arguably the CBC's most recognizable face in his role as anchor of *The National*, goes to church by name, the Canadian Media Guild, by working through a仲员 he stays at home. While Mansbridge will not disclose how he selected his list of strikers, he says: "There's great confidence in the judgment and wisdom of the people who head our union." As well, he demonstrated support for striking CBC technicians by flipping hamburgers at a cookout on their behalf—a move that drew widespread coverage from other media. But Mansbridge, who earns an estimated \$300,000 a year, told *Maclean's*: "At the end of all this, I'm not sure either my company or colleagues are as well served if attention focuses on me standing on a picket line, appearing to ask for more money. Our viewers would not understand or appreciate that."

For now, the effects of the technicians' walkout are evident in cancelled and disrupted broadcasts of *Hockey Night in Canada*, reruns of such popular shows as *The Hour* (ex-22 Minutes) and *Royal Canadian Air Force*, and the absence of *Fashion File* on CBC's *Newsweek*, and nightly broadcasts of *The National* that, with their lack of video footage, could be out of the 1950s. And for the moment, the CBC's unionized employees stand united in agreeing that their demands are reasonable—but many, like Mansbridge, are divided in their emotions.

This week, a federal mediator will oversee new talks between the network and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, the union that represents the 2,000 striking technicians. Even so, that happens, 3,300 radio and television news reporters, hosts and producers—and another 500,000 CBC employees—will be on the picket line in walking off their jobs, perhaps as early as next week. Although CBC officials will not say what they will do if an agreement is not reached, the end result would almost certainly be a near-complete shutdown of English-language services.

But the usual angry rhetoric in such situations is tempered by fear about the future. Many strikers feel their walkout is justified by years of ongoing job cuts and pay freezes. But they recognize, as striking sound technician Eric Foss says, "the real danger is that many people will simply give up to our union and have the CBC for good." Adds Foss, a union organizer who demonstrates his support by walking the picket line outside the CBC's Toronto headquarters daily: "We're not exactly hearing a lot of people screaming 'give us back our *Newsweek*!'" Similarly, says Mervin, host of the popular show *Undercover*: "I am terrified that someone has to sacrifice the star of the show for budget cuts, and that the target will be the technicians. And I am terribly worried about what will happen to the CBC if this drags on for long."

In the short term, CBC officials claim that damage from the strike has been minimal: audiences for prime-time programs are off by "less than 30 per cent" despite the fact that most are reruns, says CBC spokesman Ruth-Ellen Soley. So far, advertisers who paid for space on affected shows are accepting offers of additional free time or other programs rather than splitting their money. And CBC has been extremely solicitous in dealing with our people," says Ann Hodson, president of OMD Canada, the country's largest media buying group. And, says Tracy Burnside, the head of *Newsweek*: "As long as the news is out, we're all right. But if a big ever breaks out and we're not able to cover it, I should be afraid of the long-term damage that does to our revenue internally and our viewers externally." Still, CBC officials insist they are proceeding with plans to announce the official birth of the new *News* of *Now* on April 1.

One sign of the damage that a long-term strike will cause is in the performance of *The National*, where the absence of technical crews is most marked. Before the strike, the nightly news was drawing more than 900,000 viewers at 10 p.m., compared with about 1.1 million viewers with ratings for *CTV* at 11 p.m. By Feb. 26, a week into the strike, *CTV*'s numbers had risen to 1.5 million viewers, while CBC says its audience has fallen to 780,000-plus. And, in a move that endures the corporation's journalists and will have clear long-term effects, the CBC announced that it is closing bureaus in Paris, Mexico City and Cape Town. Said disappointed Mansbridge: "Virtually every time I speak in public about the CBC, I make the point that we other Canadians, highly trained eyes and ears on the rest of the world for Canadians, and I feel it's a great frustration. So you can imagine just how devastated I feel by this."

There is nothing new in the fears about the uncertain future of Canada's public broadcaster: those have been constant since 1989, when Brian Mulroney's Progressive Conservatives began reducing the size of the CBC budget by a total of \$140 million over five years. That was relatively minor compared with the actions of the Liberals, who, after winning in office in late 1993, slashed \$400 million from the corporation's annual budget, reducing it to \$814 million. Now, although concerns about money continue, an increased level of worry is apparent among CBC supporters. That includes a audience

size and lag networks because of the growth of specialty channels and the Internet, a lack of support for the CBC among both the ruling Liberals and opposition parties, and a sense that the corporation is headed because of the pending departure this fall of president Pierre Beaubien with no successor from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's office regarding a successor. "I'm not an ideologue, but there is considerable concern in this situation," says Vince Corle, a former head of CBC News world who now runs the journalism program at Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnic University. "This is an ugly convergence of circuit stations." Bill Fox, a former journalist and adviser to Mulroney whose upcoming book, *Spinzone*, studies the changing face of the media, uses strikingly similar language. "You get the sense of ailing the CBC," he says, adding that it is under fierce confinement of events."

The most immediate problems are the strike of technicians and the threat of a similar of profactors and union personnel. (The only two areas in the country unaffected are the province of Quebec and Moncton, N.B., where English and French personnel operate under separate contracts and unions that negotiate with Radio-Canada.) The technicians walked out on Feb. 16, after their demands for a three-year contract providing job security, limits on a contracting out, and pay increases averaging five per cent a year were rejected. The CBC is offering a three-year deal that would provide a \$700 signing bonus, three-per-cent raises in each of the next two years, and a freeze in the following year. The CBC has made a similar offer of six per cent to Canadian Media Guild members over the next two years. Neither group has had an increase since 1992.

Of the two groups, the technicians are the more aggressive in their demands. Their group has been hard hit by cuts, and demands that union members learn multi-tasking—a requirement that one person performs tasks that were once the work of two or three people. The technicians earn, on average, about \$25,000 a year (including annual salaries averaging \$42,000), with overtime clocking on the rest. Privately, some CBC journalists and outside observers believe that the technicians are being as unnecessarily intransigent in their opposition to changes, particularly in the use of new technology. "You get the impression that the CBC is the old, workflows, with nothing new, unnecessary training, and no ability to flex," says Fox.

Another problem is the frosty relationship between the CBC and the Liberals—and, critics say, the Prime Minister in particular. "This government has expressed hostility to the CBC's basic principles," says Carlo. That suspicion is sharply denied by Peter DaCosta, Chrétien's communications director. "We, as always, fully support public broadcasting in this country," adds DaCosta. "On a personal level, I think CBC reporters [O'Donnell] and I agree that relations between us and them are excellent." But Corle's summary sometimes misses through. In a 1996 year-end interview with *Maclean's*, when pressed about the fact that many of the CBC's board of directors had strong Liberal ties, he quizzed and responded: "Yes, but it's not very clear when it would be the news."

Presently, Corle and his advisers have long resisted coverage on the French-language *Radio-Canada* side, which they regard as heavily pro-separatist. (In the English side, the PMS is angry over



Becky: I am terribly worried about what will happen if the CBC if this drags on for long



MEDIA

the CBC's coverage of the APBC strike, questioning the Prime Minister's role in the 1997 incident in which protesters at a conference of Asian and North American political leaders in Vancouver were pepper-sprayed by the RCMP. Donle complained to the CBC after learning that reporter Terry McLeese had provided advice and encouragement to the protesters.

Many people within the CBC say there are indications that the Liberals are trying to put the corporation on a short leash. They are alarmed by the proposal that the CBC put a maple leaf on its logo—a move which, critics say, would strip away transforming the corporation into a state of the state, rather than an independent entity. A story in *The National* last August suggested that the government wanted the French and English networks to establish a new position of “news manager” in Ottawa, who would be more responsive to government concerns. Donle says the PSC’s report is “complete, unfounded fiction.” He adds that the maple leaf story grew from a Treasury Board study that said government bodies were not “using the brand traditional symbols of Canada enough in their identities.” The idea, Donle says, “was a theoretical one, and never got tested at the network.”

Perhaps the best test of the government’s intentions will come with the appointment of a new president. Beatty’s term was to expire in March, but he is staying until autumn to oversee the CBC’s licence-renewal efforts. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, whose hearings begin in mid-May, Chairman, asked by MacLeod when he would announce his choice, would say only that it would be “this year.” The leading candidate is believed to be Robert Robinson, a once-bilingual former federal deputy minister of communications with Liberals—he was fired by the Mulroney Conservatives in 1985—who now works for Charles Bronfman’s Claridge Inc. Other possibilities include former *TV* Ontario president and long-time CBC executive Peter Bremner, James McClelland, the current chief operating officer, who is recuperating from a car accident, and Tim McQuarrie, president of the Discovery Channel.

Even within the CBC, there is agreement that the corporation has, in the past, caused many of its own troubles. MacLeod cites the ill-



Beatty, walking the line in Toronto (Mark Rutherford)

ad fast to that argument.

CBC defenders say the area is not only who watches television—but also what they see. McLeese, whose program has decided everything from the ethics of television sponsors to the money journalists make from speeches to private groups, cites her personal exposure to the difference between public and private broadcasting. When *Discover* was taken off the air two years ago—a decision later rescinded—McLeese was so upset that she approached officials of other networks “who had always told me how much they’d love to have the show.” But when the officials, when McLeese would not come, were offered the opportunity, “I became apoplectic that the only way I could sell the show would be by transforming it into a stink bomb, toothless thing. Only a public broadcaster has the guts to do otherwise.”

But now, McLeese says, the CBC’s willingness to make enemies with its journalists may be the cause of its decline. “It’s in the interest of the private networks to get rid of us, and we can’t even defend ourselves. Because we work for the taxpayer, we have no lobbyists or public relations people to speak on our behalf.” But as journalists persist at the corporation, the growing concern is not who speaks for the CBC—but whether anyone is listening. □

lated 1991 move of the nightly news to 9 p.m.—a decision made, ironically, by Jean-Pierre, now the chief executive officer at CTV, when he was at CBC—as “a disaster in every way that took anything to recover from.” As well, CBC officials have often hedged on or revised key decisions, with costly results. In 1991 faced with the need to cut \$100 million, the CBC either closed or simply reduced operations at 11 regional stations. That appeared to indicate a move away from regional programs and towards an emphasis on national programming. But in recent years, the CBC has increased spending on regional programming in the news area. Many news executives believe the money would be better spent on national news—and that the closure of foreign bureaus could, and should, have been avoided by making cuts at the regional level.

Virtually everyone at the CBC is leery about the corporation’s long-standing image as the overstaffed home of under-worked journalists. McLeese, who joined the CBC in 1981 and describes her self as “a leet,” told MacLeod’s “If that were ever true, those days are over. We’ve heard the criticisms, we’ve taken it all to heart, and, by God, we’re changed.”

The sad irony is that after several difficult years, the broadcasting season began well on a variety of fronts. Although the audience for specialty channels across North America has grown by 18 per cent since last September—and audiences for private broadcasters have fallen by eight per cent—CBC had, as of the start of this year, managed to keep its prime-time numbers stable. That, says Soles, “shows the wisdom of going to all-Canadian programming.” As well, *The National* had been showing improvement in its audience share. So far as critics observe, the CBC’s English television service now attracts less than 10 percent of viewers in prime time—while all taxpayers finance it. That feeds the argument of right-wing circles that the CBC should be drastically reorganized or privatized—and the present labour problems add fuel to that argument.

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Remembering Reena

The applause had barely died down when a middle-aged woman walked up to drama instructor Tim Tryfylakis. As soon as she got home, she told the 46-year-old teacher she planned to put her arms around her teenage daughter and express her love. It is hard not to be moved by *The Short Life and Lovely Death of Reena Park*, a play written, produced and performed by about 30 of Tryfylakis's students at Frank Ober Senior Secondary School in Surrey, B.C. The 50-minute production portrays the disturbing events surrounding the suicide of the 14-year-old Victoria-area schoolgirl last fall by killing herself. Despite the harrowing depiction, says Bal Raney, who plays Reena, the message is clear: Violence is

never the answer. "It's an escalating problem," says Raney, 17. "But if it really makes you feel good, when you can say you opened up some wounds."

That's probably one reason why Majori Park, Reena's father, agrees the play has blessed him. Tryfylakis concluded his last *NeverScriber* The Park family has yet to see it, but Tryfylakis says he plans to send them a videotaped performance. The students have been asked to stage the production at a number of B.C. high schools, and performed this month at a provincial symposium on school violence. "We want to cast some light into the dark corners of the human condition," says Tryfylakis. It's a fitting tribute for a 14-year-old girl who discovered how terrifying that darkness can be.

The cola wars continue to bubble on campus

The perennial cola wars keep bubbling up on campuses across Canada. And so far, Pepsi seems to be ahead, with contracts as the exclusive cold-beverage supplier to 22 universities. Coca-Cola has signed an estimated seven schools, but it is far from admitting defeat. At the University of New Brunswick, it is locked in an intense ne-

gated action in the wake of a deal with Pepsi last spring that will give UNB and nearby St. Thomas University \$5.7 million over 10 years. Most of the money will go towards scholarships, athletics and clubs.

Under UNB's previous contract with Coca-Cola, it was still possible to buy a Pepsi on campus, although Coca products were given prominent placement. Now, students have to go off campus to get their Coca. The soft-drink giant has responded by spending about \$1,000 a week on ads in The Brunswick, the student newspaper.

Turmoil in Ontario

Tumult gripped Ontario schools as the province introduced sweeping changes to the high-school curriculum and a suffice hit the Toronto District School Board. About 14,000 support staff walked off the job that Canada's largest board, unleashing a wave of vandalism by some students. A mediator was called in to help settle the dispute over wages and job security. The school board closed 21 schools, affecting 32,000 of its 300,000 students. Meanwhile, the government unveiled a curriculum for next September that compresses high school into four years from five and stresses math and science. Some parents and teachers say the changes are being made too quickly.

A golden age for retired teachers

Ken Wren never wanted to retire in the first place. But when the former English teacher at Toronto's Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute reached the age of 65 during the 1993-1994 school year, he bowed out gracefully after concluding it would blithely take court action to keep working. Five years later, he is enjoying the last laugh. In December, two high schools asked if he'd be interested in part-time work. The problem now, says Wren, is that the heavier burden teachers have to bear. "They've increased the workload," he notes. "It's way beyond what I was ever asked."

The growing demand for retirees in one of the most critical shortages of teachers is becoming more pronounced. In a letter last month, the Ontario College of Teachers urged the 31,000 teachers who took advantage of reduced early retirement requirements last year to return to work part-time. An increase in early retirement has also contributed to shortages in provinces such as Alberta and Nova Scotia. Meanwhile, the total number of applicants to teachers' colleges has dropped from 30,000 in 1980 to 8,000 in 1997. That could spell trouble for students, says Jan Eastman, president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. She fears desperate boards may have resorted to teachers to fill the gap. And that would leave many wishing they had never let folks like Ken Wren go.

At the University of Ottawa, whose Coca-Cola has an exclusive deal, a Coke representative recently asked the student newspaper, *The Falcon*, to include a reference to Coca-Cola's sports story. The suggested line? "Coca-Cola Classic remains a sports star, bringing refreshment to the fans during game scoreboards and half-times." The paper refused to budge. But Coca's ad blitz in UNB appears to be having some impact. Anuradha Saha, manager of Coca's driver-in, even though her uncle owns a Pepsi bottling plant,



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Mysterious malady

Doctors disagree on the causes of fibromyalgia

On a good day, Ellen Pidcock says she can ignore the constant pain in her muscles, the heightened intolerance to sounds and the chronic fatigue, and go about her occasional duties with her family. On bad days, she will sleep for 20 hours, unable to lift her head, ache miserably and have trouble remembering her husband's name. "I call it 'candida,'" says Pidcock, a 45-year-old with a Bachelor of Science degree and an MBA who is currently on a long-term disability pension from Ontario Hydro in Toronto. "It's like somebody stuffed my head full of cotton batting." Pidcock is one of an estimated 850,000 Canadians suffering from one of the great mystery ailments of the late 20th century—fibromyalgia, a debilitating condition with similarities to chronic fatigue syndrome. Together they have leveled the medical establishment since the mid-1980s.

Nine years ago, the Canadian Rheumatol-

ogy Association, following the lead of its U.S. counterpart, adopted the term fibromyalgia—FM to patients and practitioners—and came up with a handy diagnostic: chronic muscular pain for at least three months, and muscle pain when pressure is applied to at least 11 of the body's 18 trigger points. FM sufferers can exhibit a variety of complaints, common aches in the neck, low back, shoulders, head, ribcage, wrists, ankles, abdominal pain, bowel irritation, depression and pronounced sleep disorders. But medical research has not been able to settle on a cause—let alone a cure.

Sometimes called "the syndrome of the Nineties," many doctors feel it is the way some people tolerate the psychological and sometimes physical stress of modern life. "We've done more conceivable test known to mankind and there are still no answers," observes Edmonton rheumatolo-

gist Tony Russell. "I don't believe there is one root cause but many disorders reflecting personal distress." Russell says less pressure is very nearly overrun by FM sufferers, a noticeable turnaround from the situation of a dozen years ago. "Sex and saying patients are malingerers, or that this is a psychiatric disease," says Russell, who also feels physicians may be contributing to the problem by treating FM as a special case. "When people are told they have an unexplained condition, they get more stressed, and in a sense, can make themselves ill."

If one MP's survey of physicians in the populous Peel region west of Toronto, is any guide, doctors are profoundly divided. While 50 per cent feel FM was an organic or biological illness, 38 per cent said it wasn't, and the rest were uncertain. Suggested causes include an imbalance in certain brain chemicals or hormones, immune system and microcirculation problems, viral infections, an unusual pain-modulating chemical, sleep disorders and physical traumas such as a car accident.

To some extent, the condition could be self-perpetuating. Chronic pain sufferers tend to sleep less well—but research suggests that if mostly when the body enters the deep sleep stage that a primary chemical responsible for restoring muscle tone is released. Another unusual aspect of fibromyalgia is its tendency to strike people in middle age—the usual



After diagnosis when she was 60, in pain eight years after a serious car accident

age is between 20 and 40—although it is being increasingly diagnosed in children. And most research suggests it's more prevalent in women. In any case, it is hard to treat. Like U.S. studies found that even 20 years after initial diagnosis, most patients showed no noticeable signs of improvement.

That is a problem for some doctors. The sad fact, says Francis Loring, a Toronto rheumatologist who has a special interest in the dis-

order, is that many of his colleagues don't want to deal with FM patients because they are viewed as demanding and they never seem to get better. "It is a topic we don't feel embarrassed about because we are so important," says Loring. "But I see such a variety of different, elusive types with identical symptoms and identical names. So it's easy."

No one has to tell Sheila Alder it exists. The office manager of an Internet supplier in O-

ttawa, Alder was diagnosed with FM in 1985, eight years after a serious car accident, when she couldn't sit over her low back and sleep. Alder runs a support group for FM sufferers and notes that one of the problems they face is that they often appear normal and healthy. Even family members can have a tough time believing this is so, though she's strong. Alder coping with her affliction by regular exercise, chemical supplements and cutting right—cigarettes, enterprises. She's research author, Pidcock, who has a severe case, with chronic fatigue as well, maintains she has taken a load off with chemical supplements to no avail. She has tried special enemas, aquatic therapy, meditation, yoga, acupuncture, nutritional supplements and a variety of antidepressants and sleep-inducing drugs.

The background over FM is moving to Ottawa. Most private insurance plans accept FM as a disability, provided it impacts the ability to work. But the big hurdle is proving to be the Canada Pension Plan, where tougher eligibility rules have made it harder for chronic pain sufferers to win CPP disability payments. An Ottawa-based action group for FM sufferers is planning to urge the federal government to come to challenge the CPP rules, but for now, the politics of pain is just as hard to crack as the cause or the cure.

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Hughie readers of her columns expect her to wear tights and leather.

The '90s guru of sex

After years of writing and talking about sex and relationships, Josey Vogel is the subject of a few misconceptions. "People expect me to be sexually obsessive all the time," says the Montreal-based columnist. "Like I'm going to show up in whips and leather." This perception arose in 1994 when Vogel began writing "My messy bedrooms," a frank and personal column now syndicated in nine alternative weekly newspapers across Canada. She sealed her reputation as a sexual know-it-all when she became a regular guest on *Entertainment Weekly*, a Life Network weekly TV show about sexuality. And now she has written a guidebook for finding the perfect partner, *Dating A Survival Guide From the Frontlines*. "The one thing people like me want,

says the 34-year-old Vogel, "is 'Where can I meet people?'" She often replies that there aren't any quick fixes, and compares dating to publishing, saying that some people have to send out 1,000 résumés, while others "just seem to look into jobs."

A native of Newmarket, Ont., Vogel studied journalism and communications at Concordia University. After graduating in 1988, she became the arts editor at that city's weekly magazine *Moar*, before creating her column. Vogel, who has been dating her current boyfriend for 18 months, confesses to being overly sentimental. "I am a big, sappy romantic in many ways," she says, "which has gotten me into a lot of trouble in relationships." Balcon, take note.

A pint-size David versus Guinness the Goliath

In Ireland—a country where a pint of stout is considered a staple—a Canadian is breaking up the local beer industry. Toronto native Evan McKenna moved to Dublin three years ago to help start the Dublin Brewing Co., the city's first microbrewery. "When we told the locals that we were starting a small brewery," says McKenna, 32, "they thought we were in a quixotic." Dubliners' ignorance of microbreweries is understandable, since the 1940s, beer giant Guinness has had a de facto monopoly on brewing in the city. "The opportunity to break out of Sir Arthur Guinness's backyard," says a smiling McKenna, "was something I couldn't pass up."

Born in Scotland, McKenna moved to Toronto with his family when he was 2. He decided to become a brewmaster after growing up with a family friend who is a wine journalist. He started studying fermentation science at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, but when he took an eight-month government program on entrepreneurship, he decided that it was "dead boring." Instead, McKenna set his sights on brewing beer, and when he graduated from Guelph, landed several head-brewer jobs at microbreweries throughout North America.

After responding to an engagement ad in a brewing trade magazine, McKenna was hired by Karen Fassony, the Irish managing director of the Dublin company. The first thing the two did was find a location for the brewery. They chose Smithfield Market, a historic locale long associated with brewing—and just a stone's throw away from the English-owned Guinness's main plant. "I wanted to remind the Irish," says McKenna, "what real beer is about." And not only Ireland. The company has created award-winning beers that have become popular in Europe—and soon, McKenna hopes, in North America. This week, he is introducing the beers in Ontario, with other provinces to follow.

In two years, McKenna, his wife, Janet Hanon, and their baby daughter, will return to Ontario where he hopes to start a microbrewery. "Being in Dublin has been great for my career," says the brew-master. "But I hope that I made a difference." *True Canadian* modestly.



McKenna: remaking the Irish "what real beer is about"

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Obituary

A life of pure science

Gerhard Herzberg won the Nobel in 1971



At the National Research Council lab scientist 'locked in the light by the name of G.H.'

It has been a life well lived. Gerhard Herzberg, who died last week at 89 after a long career at Ottawa's National Research Council, won the 1971 Nobel Prize for chemistry even though he was a physicist. He turned to physics as a young man because he was told his chosen field, astronomy, was suitable only for the wealthy. He turned with the notion of being an open singer. And while Herzberg devoted his life to scientific discovery, he believed that science was really about philosophy.

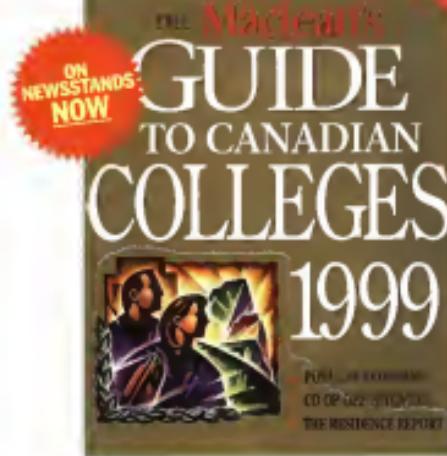
What is categorically clear, however, is that Herzberg is one of the greatest Canadian scientists. "What he did is not just a collection of excellence and a collection of cultured behaviour, both of which we shall continue to treasure," says University of Toronto chemist John Polanyi, himself a 1986 Nobel chemistry prize winner. For instance, Herzberg "sets the example of what we all would like to be," says Henry Mantsch of the National Research Council's biogeochemistry institute in Winnipeg. In 1988, Mantsch was a fellow at the council, becoming one of many "who flocked to the NRC, to the light by the name of G.H., as we called him."

Herzberg had to leave his native Germany

in 1938 because his wife, Ida, was Jewish. They settled first in Saskatoon, where he worked at the University of Saskatchewan. After several years at the University of Chicago, he landed at the research council at Ottawa in 1948. (He always considered Saskatoon his Canadian birthplace.) Herzberg is regarded as the father of molecular spectroscopy, the science of identifying atoms and molecules by the unique signatures of light they emit. The seemingly esoteric specialty has found applications in areas as diverse as cancer detection, cancer research and the nature of the universe.

Herzberg, however, would not have appreciated the suggestion that his science was esoteric because it had practical applications. "He didn't believe in the difference between 'basic' and 'applied' science," says Mantsch. For Herzberg, there was good science and bad, and "good science will lead to benefits." Polanyi points out that while Herzberg's work could be called "real, long-haul science" when he did it, the task of identifying muster at the molecular level is now critical. Among other uses, the computer chip industry tries to identify impurities in parts per billion, polycrystalline silicon included.

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De Niro (left) and Crystal, the serious actor has fun, the comedian plays straight man

Criminal clowning

Two comedies take the mickey out of the Mob

How do you get Robert De Niro to break down and cry like a baby? Cast him in a comedy. In *Analyze This*, the title of a crime boss on the verge of a nervous breakdown, De Niro takes his most familiar persona, the ruthless mobster, and plays it like laughs. According to his producer and longtime associate, Jane Rosenthal, De Niro worried about the danger of parodying himself. "After all," he says, "he could wind up making the closest thing Robert De Niro has to a dramatic classic—*Wall Street*—not funny. That's exactly what De Niro has done. As Paul Vitti, one of New York City's most powerful gangsters, the cool, stoic actor is an American cinema icon into the *Mulholland* Malaise.

Analyze This is one of two new comedies that try to take the mickey out of the Mob. It's a formulaic farce from Hollywood, as its recently good-for-laugh audiences from a few good belly laughs. The actor is Jack Palance, and *The Smoking Barrels*, a desperately hip little independent film that has won awards and shocked law-office records for a leap in taste. It arrives loaded with cacti—but the hypocritical narrative gets lost in a game of mockery, snootiness, sexual anomalies and coquettish vulgarisms.

Analyze This is an ironic basic fish-out-of-water here, with both fish. De Niro's mobster is a smooth hard-ass who inexplicably finds himself paralyzed by anxiety attacks, bouts of amnesia and bewildering waves of emotion. Billy Crystal plays psychiatrist Ben Soler, a sensible wimp with a stalled career and a

boring clientele of suburban executives—who suddenly finds himself on the Mob's payroll. It's a rich premise. Through a series of fate, Soler is conscripted to serve as Vitti's shrink. And before long he is enduring this *opus di capo* at a cap with the title of a Greek divinity named Gethyus who whacked his father and slept with his mother. The entertainment schlock of *Analyze This* is closest in a rather absurd movie—one that doesn't hold up under analysis. But there are enough funny scenes between De Niro and Crystal to make it happily endurable.

They pull off a nifty role reversal. De Niro, the domineering actor, gets the low's share of fancy lines with Crystal, a comedian who has been chronically unable to carry a movie on his own (*My Guest*, *My Saturday Night*), in comical yet slightly off the mark of straight man. Predictably, as De Niro's character gets in touch with his inner feelings, the shrink finds his inner tough egg, and before you can say Robert Sly, Crystal is back in *My Shlomo* territory, as the addled prancing himself in the wilds of machohead.

The movie adds up to less than the sum of its parts, especially when other characters step into the picture. Luis Riedow has a thankless role as Crystal's snappy fiancé, who is wedding-plans keep getting interrupted by the Mob. Meanwhile, writer-director Harold Ramis tries to protect the funny story with a steady covering fire of one-liners. "What are you doing here, to make you a happy, well-educated gangster?" asks Soler. "When I got into family practice, this was not what I

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Brian D. Johnson



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had in mind?" When Crystal's character runs into federal agents from the O.C.D., there is a case of confusion between Organized Crime Division and obsessive-compulsive disorder. And there are some witty allusions to *The Godfather*.

Still, it's a naked blessing to watch De Niro selling off his Mafia act, scrunching his poker face into a crying clown mask. His life serving Marlon Brando's crime Don Corleone in *The Godfather* of course, even though Godfather masterminded the last word in gangster drama, it has been easier to play the Mafia again and again and again. *Goodfellow* is a carbon bubble, a pre-feminist time warp of squares, hoodlums and sweet pythons who date in the 1970s—a world ripe for comic disaster. Queenie Thornton led the way with *Barney Dog* and *Pet Partners*. But even Martin Scorsese, Mr. Little Italy himself, waded in this direction, with the cocaine anthropomorph of *GoodFellas* and *Chinatown*.

British cinema movies, meanwhile, are a special case. *First Partnership* to The Above, *Big Fish* have participated the brutal dominance of the Hollywood blockbuster as a kind of homicide, hemorrhagic destruction of working-class England—the country's largest, *Look, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* puts a Tinseltown spin on that tradition with a densely plotted caper that takes the form of a gritty farce—as asymptomatic as that sounds. This farce consists of errors involving no fewer than the different sets of gangsters.

The grand tour is led by a roguish named Harry (Paddy Considine) who takes a 210,000 dollar-plus poker game and walks out owing \$500,000 to the game's host, crime boss Harry (Peter Mullan). Harry has a week to come up with the money before he starts losing his fingers one by one—unless his one persuade his father, J. D. (Stephen Rea), to wade out the debt by handing over his heart to Harry. So Harry and his mates decide to rip off the gang next door, a crew of brutal thugs who are in turn planning to rip a porcine group of hydroponic marijuana growers, who are controlled by a black drug lord.

Making his feature debut after cutting his teeth on user commercials, writer-director Guy Ritchie presents a madcap mélange of firecrackers and desecrated colours. The sound track is a cool mix of reggae and rock. But keeping track of the story is a full-time job, especially with the dialogue rattling by in a barely decipherable blur of cockney slang. The language is riddled with wit and mirth, but as much it sounds more convoluted than colloquial. Then again, there is something fishy about a movie in which characters have names like Bacon, Fat Man and Soap, while the actors have monikers like Jason Statham, Jason Flemyng and Dexter Fletcher. What kinds who guys have names like dad? Forget about it. Give me Robbie De Niro any day.

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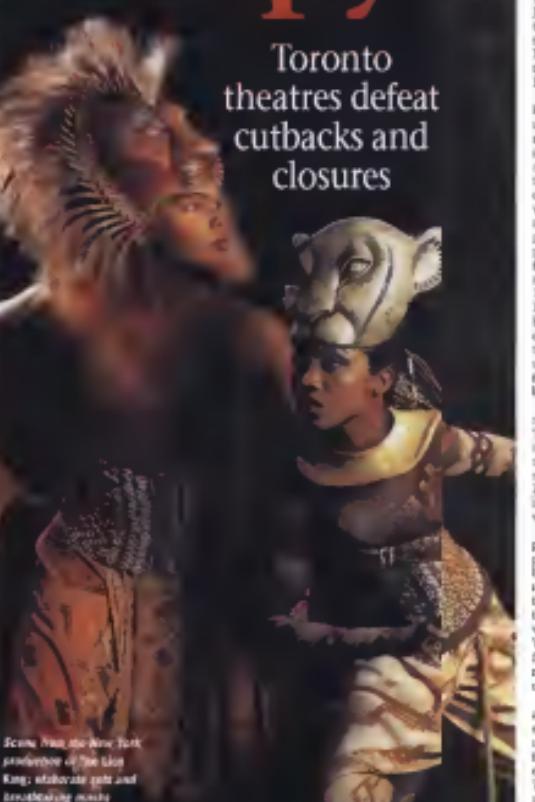
Play therapy

BY JOHN BEMROSE

There are times when theatre goers are like the evergreen tree. Last month when *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a new drama by 25-year-old playwright Michael Healey, mounted its world premiere in the old converted bakery that is home to Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille, set on a sun-dappled Ontario farm, the play followed a young Toronto actor who is in love with two bachelors from to research a drama about rural life. *The Drowsy Chaperone*—which was inspired by the making of the famous 1972 *Playhouse 90* collective play called *The Farm Show*—soon revealed itself as a moving tribute to art's healing power. For two hours, the capacity audience sat with their mouths agape, oblivious that it was a rare sign something special is happening. Then, when the cast members emerged for their curtain calls, the crowd stormed to its feet, cheering with an enthusiasm usually found only at rock concerts.

For the Toronto theatre scene, the triumph of *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a reminder sign in a line of setbacks, closures and many new ventures. "There's a vulnerability in Toronto theatre just now, from the largest to the smallest companies," says Ugo Konda, artistic director of the 28-seat-seat Teragon Theatre. Of course, theatre is always a questionable business, subject as it is to the whims of audiences and the vagaries of art. But the current climate seems particularly uncertain. For a decade now, Toronto has enjoyed a reputation as the third-largest theatre centre in the English-speaking world, after London and New York City. More than 100 professional theater groups perform in the city, a venues that range from converted barn houses to the opulent Princess of Wales Theatre. Back steadily from surrounding regions—Toronto is within a seismic zone of 30 million people, most of them in the American border states—to see shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Chicago*. Others line up for specialty shows, including Canadian Sundance Stanhope's one-woman tour de force, *Who's Bad*, now in its ninth sold-out week. Yet others make the trek to theatres such as Canadian Stage, Passe Muraille and Factory Theatre, which specialize in new Canadian or foreign drama.

Now that rich role—and Toronto's reputation as a theatre capital—has come under threat. This September, Canada's longest-running musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*, will close out its 10-year run in the refurbished Pantages Theatre. With its signature 500-kilogram-crushing chandelier, *Phantom* was long a cash cow for the financially troubled Livent line, and its recently departed co-founder, Gerdi Drabinsky,



Scene from the New York production of *The Phantom of the Opera*; elaborate sets and breathtaking music

Toronto theatres defeat cutbacks and closures



in recent years, however, tickets had been discounted, and it was evident that *Phantom* was near the end of its run.

Livent, whose headquarters have shifted from Toronto to New York, is looking for bidders to buy its assets, including the Pantages (as well as theatres in Vancouver, New York and Chicago) to help service its \$300-million debt. Yet the real blow to Toronto is the winding down of Livent's local production activities. Shows such as *Phantom* and *Shrek* may have been aimed at the U.S. market, but their creation and run transpired within the city's economy. "There definitely was a trickle-down effect from Livent, and that's no longer happening," says Janice Fraser, executive director of the Toronto Theatre Alliance. "When the final lights come down, we may have to realize that notion that we're the third largest theatre city in the English-speaking world."

Fraser points, as well, to cutbacks by grant-giving agencies, which have undertaken much of the so-called not-for-profit sector—those theatres whose prime mandate is to stage new work some of which may tour nationally. A few of the smaller companies have merged entirely, while many of the survivors are making do with shorter seasons, plays with smaller casts and lower production values. As a recent report from the Toronto Arts Council revealed, that, between 1991 and 2000, \$41.3 million worth of grants had been withdrawn by all three levels of government from the city's arts community, including theatre. Some companies have fended off closure by scaling back. "The cuts have stopped after 10 years of painful healing," declared council president Anne Collins.

Yet there is good news too. Some theatres have found new sources of income, including local corporations. At Teragon, Konda says, "we have new corporate sponsorships coming for the next three seasons—in some cases for plays that haven't even been written yet." Konda credits the region-based provincial Elizabeth Casper—with a new bank of Montreal CEO Tony Cooper—with stimulating interest among potential patrons. "Her commitment to our work has made donors see it as an exciting possibility."

However, Reg Goss, artistic director of Factory Theatre, points out that most corporate donations go to a few high-profile institutions such as major art galleries, the opera and ballet. "For smaller arts organizations, the corporate sector is not the answer," Goss maintains. "What is the answer then? Patches on first-class work can help. Last year, Goss's theatre rescued itself from near-bankruptcy by staging six wildly successful plays by Canadian playwright George P. Wilner. Along with some dedicated volunteer work from friends of the theatre, Goss himself took no pay for nine months, and, using individual donations, the Walkley triumph helped Factory stay in its own building.

Goss thinks smaller theatres, including his own, should also help. "We tend to get stuck in survival mode," he says. "Maybe we should think more about creating a product that's true to our mandate, but that can go on the road for 20 weeks and bring some healthy back-home." Thus, to exactly what happened with Teragon's smash 1996 hit, *Two Sheets, Four Heads*, a drama by Richard Greenfield, and Ted Dykstra about two young men who want to be

concert pianists. Toronto producer David Mirvish staged it successfully in New York, before its run at his Royal Alex Theatre. Now, the little play is travelling across the United States, with a second touring version planned for next year. All those ventures earn royalties for Teragon.

With Drabinsky's fall, Mirvish is now the only major theatre producer left in Toronto. Recently, he achieved a major triumph when he beat out interests in Chicago and Los Angeles to secure the exclusive North American rights to *One Life to Live*, Disney's phenomenally successful musical. *Broadway* runs is sold out to the end of 2000. Mirvish is planning to build the show's repertoire to seven and break ground on a new musical in Canada. As far as possible, he hopes to cast it here, too. That activity should help offset some of the negative economic impact of Livent's collapse. Mirvish took on the musical even though production details are not yet worked out, and he does not know how much *The Lion King* will ultimately cost to stage. Insiders put the figure between \$10 million and \$20 million. "It's more ambitious than anything I've attempted," Mirvish says.

Musicals such as *The Lion King*—which will open at the Princess of Wales in March, 2000, for a 28-month run—have their share of local detractors who claim they draw ticket-buyers away from original Canadian work. But Mirvish has an answer: He claims that negative profits (including increased subscription sales in his entire season) allow him to pick up production from smaller Canadian theatres and give them a wider exposure in his Royal Alex Theatre, next door to the Princess of Wales. "The success of the big shows gives us the advantage of taking risks," Mirvish says, "of showcasing a unique kind of the art that comes out of our own community."

Canadian plays that have benefited from the Mirvish touch include the city's big hits, *The Nerd* (the hit show from Vancouver's Jujamuk Theatre Company, which played in Toronto in January). Then there is the up-and-coming *Our Town*, to be performed by members of Toronto's new classical repertory company, Sowden. This group made a sensational debut last summer with their brilliant interpretations of two plays by Molier and Schiller. They ended their season with a musical and this summer—it's off to *Our Town*—are undoubtedly staging plays, including Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Director/poet's artistic director, Albert Schultz, is an actor by trade, but he's made a name as a bass-baritone as he explains how—drama is part to the Mirvish connection—it's company is producing more than twice as many shows as last year with only a 20-per-cent increase in costs. And he's bringing ticket prices down, too: a four-show package will cost as little as \$100, says Schultz. "We have to make it possible for a younger generation to afford the classics."

Toronto's smaller theatres, in return, are taking a page from the big producers and getting financially savvy. But ultimately, the real vitality of the city's theatre depends on how good the plays are—and there the outlook is encouraging. "Artistically," claims Goss, "the Toronto scene has never been stronger." The people who used to cheer *The Drowsy Chaperone* would no doubt agree. □

Allan Fotheringham

Remembering Jack Webster, the Oatmeal Savage

Davy Gilleple, the bickering king of trumpery, once said of Louis Armstrong: "No him, no me." But it is with every host on the continent. No Jack Webster; no them. Long before Rush Limbaugh, long before New York's Don Imus or Vancouver's Steve Mac; the burly Oatmeal Savage who died last week at 80 perfected the medium—an electric chair for guests, disguised as a microphone.

Webster would have been an instant candidate for that old *Reader's Digest* feature "My Most Unforgettable Character." He opened his pioneering spew-a-thon show on CKCN radio at 8 p.m. "journally." By that time he would have finished his first 20-cigarette pack of the day.

More than 20 years ago, a doctor looked down his throat to his lungs and said it was like going into the bottom of a Welsh coal mine. "Go away," he told Webster, "there's nothing I can do for you."

I was once with him in a Winnipeg restaurant when he set fire to a water, his flaking arms flailing one of his typically outrageous stories lolling over the flame cart. "I could have saved him," he confessed later, "but I was wearing a new suede jacket."

Huggie McHaggippe, as I called him, had beneath all the distinctive barn and graft exterior the heart of soft coffee cake. Every sidewall drunk outside his studio in Vancouver's gritty Gastown knew he was the easiest mark for free samples of vanilla extract.

Just as Walter Cronkite used to be judged in polls as the most trustworthy American figure, the dropout kid from the Glasgow waterfront was for decades the most trusted figure in British Columbia by the Great Unwashed out there at the other end of the radio dial.

He left school at 14 for three jobs, delivering milk in the morning and news between copy-boy slots at two newspapers. To qualify for editor-reporter status in the National Union of Journalists, he read on the streetcar each day Charles Dickens and Shakespeare. To this end, he constantly corrected grammatical mistakes in the conversations of his more educated drinking companions.



He had a very good war, ending up a major in Ethiopia. One of his better japes—since the time frame for the Official Secrets Act had expired—was being seconded for his famed shorthand speed to be the recorder at a court-martial trial of British Army headquarters in Cairo, known by the town's smart set, of British and Australian officers, lonely in the desert, who had established romantic am. relationships with sheep.

He was in Ottawa one day and suddenly remembered it was his 60th birthday. In his usual nonchalance, non-stop roundels, he suggested every politician and journalist he can find drop by his hotel room for a celebratory drink. So many eager sapskives showed up that they were standing on the chairs, as room on the floor left.

Embarrassed that he couldn't offer them all to dinner, Webster called room-service and ordered up club sandwiches. As the meat grew ever thicker, he shoved down and ordered them to eat the sandwiches into smaller portions.

A young blond woman expected on the bed, a well-known host now on CTV offering more enthusiasm than required chair massage. Fearful scandal, Webster wailed: "Here I am on my 60th birthday, attempting to get a woman out of my bed." The room-service bill came to \$880. Precisely.

He was, first on *This Year Has Seven Days* and later on *Frost Fair Challenge*, the rare combination of a superb reporter who was also an excellent showman, a born. With these two skills, he became the high-stepping, working journalist in the country—without having to move to desolate Toronto—making \$200,000 a year a dozen days when that was actually enormous money. In doing so, he helped all the rest of us scribblers. It's called salary creep.

One day he and his best buddy Pattee Beriton were in a small fish place in bad weather headed up the B.C. coast for their annual fishing trip. "You know, Webster," said Beriton, "if this lousy drink, every paper in Toronto will have a headline: 'WEBSTER DOES IT'—Webster also aboard." And every paper in Vancouver will have a headline: "WEBSTER DOES IN CRASH—Beriton also perishes."

It was a good line, but it wasn't true the day after Webster died, surrounded of course by his four children. The *National Post* had his picture on page 1 with a story and a terrific old aside that took up almost a whole page. The *Globe and Mail* had his picture on page 1. The *Vancouver Star* had a big obit. He was instantly a lead item on the national news-to-TV. The next day the *Globe* had an editorial—thoroughly agreeing with a quote from Shakespeare—and featuring with a smile, "Theola, Jack."

He was not genial—one of a kind. His like shall not pass this way again.

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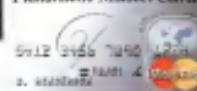
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